Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-057
Thursday
24 March 1994

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FBIS-LAT-94-057 *24 March 1994*

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Venezuela's Burelli Withdraws Candidacy for OAS Post

PA2303194394 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1809 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Caracas, 23 Mar (DPA)—The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry confirmed to DPA today that Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Burelli Rivas is withdrawing his candidacy for secretary general of the OAS. Burelli Rivas will make his withdrawal official at Miraflores Palace (government headquarters) this afternoon, even though last week he insisted to foreign journalists that he would continue his candidacy until election day, this Sunday in Washington.

According to media reports, the Venezuelan foreign minister had only received the support of the Haitian Government in exile. With his withdrawal, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria remain in the competition for the hemispheric post.

Burelli Comments on Move

PA2403031894 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 23 Mar 94

[From "The News" Newscast]

[Text] As for foreign relations, the Venezuelan Government today decided to withdraw Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli's candidacy for OAS secretary general.

[Being Burelli recording] As unusual practices developed during the elections, the OAS's spirit of equality and democracy was exceeded. The OAS has always maintained the alternation or rotation principle, by which a country, regardless of how honorable its aspirations are, should not occupy the OAS post if that country has already occupied it in the past. Such an attitude would be detrimental to those nations that have never occupied it.

Of course, this attitude does not mean that the merits of the other candidates for this post should not be recognized. On those grounds, to continue serving the hemispheric cause with dignity, which is definitely important, the national government makes public the withdrawal of its candidacy for OAS secretary general, because there are no concrete objections to the autonomy of the elections. [end recording]

Cuba

Havana: Missiles 'Aggravating' Korean Situation

FL2303180394 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] The United States is only aggravating the tense situation on the Korean peninsula in ordering today the deployment of 36 Patriot missile batteries and in insisting on the Team Spirit maneuvers.

Washington is also fostering UN sanctions against North Korea. The aim of all these efforts is to force Pyongyang to allow an inspection of its nuclear program installations.

The International Atomic Energy Agency inspected all but two of those nuclear installations between 1 and 5 March. Now in its report it is trying to force the opening of the plants not visited to verification, although the North Korean Government has rejected the U.S. military threats as being harmful to its national sovereignty.

President William Clinton is sponsoring punitive measures against North Korea through the UN Security Council such as by cutting financial, grain, or fuel supplies. Meanwhile, military pressure against Pyongyang continues.

Havana Cites PRC Premier's Warning to U.S.

FL2303175894 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] The annual session of the Chinese People's Congress ended today with a call to continue political and economic reforms. The 3,000 deputies were urged to work to balance the national reforms, development, and stability.

Premier Li Peng has warned the United States that China is a sovereign country and will not negotiate or agree to anything in detriment to its self-determination. Li Peng said he expected better results during the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher between 11 and 14 March. That trip was preceded by a broad campaign against alleged Chinese human rights violations, in which Beijing was threatened with withdrawal of most favored nation status in bilateral trade.

Robaina Continues Vietnam Visit

Holds Press Conference

FL2303181194 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina today said that his tour of eight Asian countries was successful. He said that in the future Cuba will implement a diplomatic offensive policy because we are tired of being on the stand as a defendant.

Robaina said that in Vietnam he is concluding what has been announced as a diplomatic offensive through several regions in the world with the purpose of explaining to several governments the truth about our country and studying our economic experiences.

Our tours of the Caribbean, some Latin American nations, Africa, and now Asia, have conveyed to our interlocutors a broad vision of the process Cuba is experiencing, within a climate of respect and understanding, Robaina said.

He added that in these contacts Cuba has found elbow room to personally explain the current Cuban situation and to say what the great news media fail to say.

Our country is not the hell it is said to be nor the heaven we would like it to be, and for this reason it should not be on the stand as a defendant, Robaina said. From this moment on we are going to begin a diplomatic offensive in an effort to consolidate our legitimate aspirations and to expand our international relations.

During a news conference held in Vietnam, Robaina said that we are a country open for dialogue, willing to negotiate everything, except our independence, sovereignty, and revolutionary achievements.

The Cuban foreign minister said that 1994 will be a year of intensive work which includes a new tour of some Latin American nations in the beginning of April.

On concluding his visit to Vietnam, Robaina added that his project includes a visit to the Middle East in the near future, but before that his country will host the conference between the nation and the emigre community, a meeting with the Cuban community abroad.

Robaina said that the conference will be held in Havana between 22 and 24 April with the participation of Cuban citizen who reside in the United States, Spain, Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, the Caribbean, and other countries.

Robaina went on to say that the objective of the meeting is to normalize ties between Cuba and its community abroad as all nations do. All Cubans of goodwill are invited to participate. Only the hysterical and agressive ones are not invited, he said.

On analyzing his current tour of Asian countries, the Cuban foreign minister stressed the importance of exchanging ideas and analyzing economic experiences. He said that Vietnam was the most relevant point of his tour due to the traditional bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation, and he concluded by saying that he was surprised at the achievements of this Asian country.

Visits Ho Chi Minh City

FL2403032894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived in Ho Chi Minh City today, where he was greeted by Vo Tran

Chi, member of the Politburo and first secretary of this city's party committee. At this meeting, Robaina explained to Vo Tran Chi that Cuba is immersed in a process of change in which the people's participation is essential.

Robaina, who is on the last leg of an Asian tour that included eight Southeast Asian countries, pointed out that Cuba is making many changes and that there are many still to come. Robaina said that Cuba wants to learn first-hand from the experiences of a brother such as Vietnam, to which we are linked not only by economic ties but by auspicious and frank traditional ties. He added that Cuba is in a process of recovery that is dependent on the efforts and work of the Cuban people. Robaina stressed that what has most caught his attention in Vietnam is the way the party controls and directs the economic reforms.

Vo Tran Chi said that there are many spheres in which the two countries can hold exchanges with a view to overcoming the current circumstances. The Cuban delegation will also meet with local officials and tour sites of economic interest.

Ho Chi Minh City, which has a population of 5 million, is considered Vietnam's most important commercial hub.

Politburo Members Attend Meeting on Parliaments

FL2303151094 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 94

[By Luis Orlando Pantoja]

[Text] In the midst of intensive discussions within the national Cuban Workers Federation [CTC], an analysis was made of the experience and the results of parliaments in workplaces in the city of Havana. The meeting was presided over by Politburo members Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government; Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party in the city of Havana; and Pedro Ross Leal, CTC Secretary General; along with Alfredo Morales, top union leader in the city of Havana.

Alfredo Morales read a detailed report on the main proposals submitted by the Havana workers. The report also makes a political assessment of these heated discussions in which a spirit of willingness to carry out our main tasks stands out.

A group of participants in the meeting also gave their opinions on the report and on the parliaments. They underscored such aspects as a greater demand by the administration to control resources, costs, accounting, labor discipline, and other essential matters.

Several suggestions on the banks' role in receiving payments and in paying accounts by different organizations; the need for efficiency indicators to be posted in each workplace; the reduction of annual sick leave figures; and the need to subsidize consumers rather than products, among other topics, were some of the most debated points.

Jorge Lezcano thoroughly explained the country's economic situation, namely in Havana city. He stressed the political outcome of this process, the need to continue the process and made an analysis of the salary tax, currency exchange, labor discipline, and the attitude toward the money hoarders [macetas].

He made it clear that workers will not be laid off but that the measures adopted will surely imply sacrifices and that these measures would be in effect for some time. Costs are the key factors in the economic efficiency process, Lazcano concluded.

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada also stressed the need to find efficiency as a result of internal measures and not by increasing prices. He also underscored the need to review the inflated payrolls, to prioritize self-consumption areas, stressing that there was no need to wait for the National Assembly, that decisions must be made concerning everything that can be implemented in the workplaces. Alarcon also made a valuable assessment of the Cuban socioeconomic situation before 1959.

In conclusion, Pedro Ross Leal stressed the importance of keeping up this style of work and the need to strengthen it. He said we must now continue with the second stage of parliaments which consists of implementing measures in each workplace and discussing them with workers.

Carlos Lage in Spain on Working Visit

FL2403030694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Carlos Lage, vice president of Cuba's Council of State, is on a working visit to Spain. He has met with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and will meet with Foreign Minister Javier Solana, Economics and Finance Minister Pedro Solbes, and Tourism and Commerce Minister Javier Gomez-Navarro. Lage will be in Spain until 25 March. His visit reflects the normal ties and cooperation between the Spanish and Cuban Governments, as well as those between the governments of the cities of Madrid and Havana.

Holguin Airport Undergoing Expansion

FL2303224794 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Important improvements are being made to the Frank Pais International Airport in Holguin. Excavation has begun where a new international terminal is to be built. The terminal is to have a 600-passenger capacity, divided between incoming and outgoing passengers. The airport will also have a fuel storage facility adjacent to the new terminal.

This year the Ministry of Construction will spend over 4 million pesos on equipment, construction, and installations. Of this total, it already possesses 10 percent in freely convertible currency.

Engineer (Francisco Wilford), head of Cubana [de Aviacion's] Assembly Department, explained that a brigade of experts from the city of Havana, Camaguey, and Holguin is installing the runway lights and the ILS instrument landing system, which will provide greater safety for all airport operations.

When these projects are finished in the first half of 1995, the Holguin airport, a National Vanguard airport for two consecutive years, will be able to provide better service to domestic and foreign travelers.

This year, airport officials intend to meet the airport's self-financing plan by earning hard currency, as well as to expand the work of ANIR [National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts] and to make their technical and economic plan a reality.

Granma Province Testing Bayamo TV Transmission

FL2403015694 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] This is what the television signal broadcast for the first time from Granma looked like. This is an old dream of this eastern region. Several tests have been conducted, and the specialists say that, except for the town of Buey Arriba, the signal reaches every municipality in the province strongly. Certain antennas have been rotated and others installed, making it possible to broadcast the signal from the center of Bayamo. Efforts to have a television station in Granma Province, though optimistic, have not yet borne fruit, since most of the equipment, which comes from abroad, is lacking.

Those of you who have seen this signal on your television set may find it interesting to know that it was broadcast using this Television Serrana cassette player or the videotape recorder from the office of the NTV correspondent.

Work is under way with a view to organizing a first, weekly, 30-minute program, which will of course be broadcast employing the minimal equipment we mentioned.

Also, the effort made by the Communications Ministry makes it possible for Granma Province to receive the signal from Holguin's (Tele Cristal) with top quality.

Dominican Republic

Central Bank Reports $1.49 Billion Trade Deficit

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 13 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] During the period between January and November of last year, the country's trade balance showed a deficit of $1.4906 billion, according to the figures published by the Central Bank.

In the most recent issue of the bulletin PRINCIPALES INDICADORES ECONOMICOS published by that institution, Dominican exports came to $501.1 million during that period, while cumulative imports came to $1.9917 billion.

The absolute lowest export figure in the course of the last five years was seen in 1992, when goods worth $566.1 million were exported, according to other bank publications.

If the monthly average accumulated for exports in the year just past is maintained, we will break the record for the lowest export total since 1988.

The figure of $501.1 million quoted for cumulative exports last November included $151.1 million for sugar and sugar products, $23.9 million for coffee and processed coffee products, $34.6 million for cacao and its processed products; $29.3 million for tobacco and its processed products, $119.1 million for minerals, and $143.1 million for other products, the bulletin indicated.

One of the components that showed the greatest decline was the mineral category, which includes ferronickel, gilt, gold, and silver. The total declined from $160.8 million in the comparable period in 1992 to $119.1 million in 1993.

The Dominican economic products traditionally exported are sugar and its derivatives, coffee, cacao, tobacco, and minerals. They have accounted for more than 90 percent of the export totals. The rest of the goods exported are principally nontraditional products.

In recent years, nontraditional products have gained in importance.

The "Other Products" category, made up basically of nontraditional products, showed a cumulative export total of $143.1 million pesos. This figure covers 11 months of last year, and it exceeded the total for the exports in this category made throughout the whole of 1992—$139.5 million, according to the Central Bank publication.

Various business organizations have been issuing public warnings about the increasing deficit in the Dominican trade balance and its consequences.

In the view of many economists, the gradual decline in goods has been offset by the export of services, in the tourism and free zone sectors in particular.

There are various interpretations of the exports from the free zones. Some are based on the figures provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce, while others take the figures provided by the Dominican Government as the point of departure..

The foreign-exchange income of the Central Bank obtained as a result of free-zone operations came to $5.9 million pesos in the period between January and June, according to the figures shown in the foreign-exchange balance table published in the quarterly bulletin of the banking institution.

That publication carried the figures on the gross domestic product (GDP) up to the month of September 1993.

They show growth of 1.5 percent, at constant 1970 prices, including the mining sector.

It is notable that this publication carried a calculation of the additional product without including the mining sector, since viewed separately, that showed a decline of 42.1 percent, the publication indicated.

In answer to questions posed by our editor recently, the governor of the Central Bank estimated that the GDP might show an increase of 3-4 percent. However, this official noted, by way of reservation, that the final figures have not yet been made available.

The commitment made by the Dominican Republic to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the year just past was to achieve product growth of about five percent.

Certain foundations that make estimates in this connection predicted that growth would come to less than 1 percent.

The foreign-exchange balance came to $643.4 million pesos in gross reserves in the January-November period, down from the figure reported in the month of August, which was $714.2 million pesos.

The document in question revealed that the foreign income included in this balance actually obtained from the export of goods came to $300.5 million pesos, the lowest figure in recent years.

However, the figure for the service category (which includes tourism) was $630 million pesos.

The sector in service exports that is most effectively integrated in the economy is tourism. However, it accounted directly for the generation of only 40,000 jobs throughout the country. On the contrary, the declining goods-export sector directly generated more than 200,000 jobs, thus revealing the level of its integration into the economy.

An economy that has an unemployment rate of 28 percent, with more than 600,000 idle workers, requires economic activities that generate as many jobs as possible, the development theoreticians say.

Currency issues as of the end of last November showed a balance of 13.5088 billion pesos, exceeding the currency issues for the comparable period in 1992 by 31 percent, this publication reported.

The inflation reported for the period between November of 1992 and November of 1993 was 2.54 percent, with each month being compared with its counterpart of the preceding year.

In this instance, no proportionality between the one and the other can be seen as one of the factors explaining the expansion of currency issues.

This is an indication that the increase of 31 percent during a 12-month period, when inflation was only 2.54 percent, was due to other reasons.

The expanded supply of currency came to a total of 31.3574 billion pesos, revealing an increase of 24 percent in the period of 12 months between November of 1992 to November of 1993.

The bulletin also shows that savings and term deposits came to 17.010 billion pesos, with a large part of the currency issued remaining in the vaults of the commercial banks, in their current accounts in the Central Bank, and in the cash reserve funds of that bank.

The potential inflationary effect of an increase of 31 percent in currency issues in 12 months was totally canceled out by the liquidity reserves of the banks and the cash funds.

ONAPRES Reports December Revenues, Expenditures

94CA0084A Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 24 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] Central government income came to 2.0801 billion Dominican pesos last December, the National Budget Office (ONAPRES) has reported.

The sum collected last month came to about 598 million pesos more than the sum collected in November, which came to a total of 1,482,089,453 pesos.

An ONAPRES report says that central government income, with the balances accumulated in the special funds added in, came to 2.3581 billion pesos.

Of these resources, the sum of 1.1132 billion pesos was allocated for investment, the ONAPRES reported.

The text of the ONAPRES report follows.

"The National Budget Office, with a view to keeping the public informed about the state income and expenditures for the month of December 1993, is making the details pertaining to this part of the current budget period available to the general public.

"The strategy of the current government, headed by Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, the president of the Republic, calls for distributing the public funds on the basis of the essential priorities to the agricultural, irrigation, drinking water, energy, health, and education sectors, without excluding

other primary sectors that come together to contribute to the harmonious development and progress of the national economy.

"National income in the referenced period came to 2,080,152,973 pesos, and with the balances accumulated in the special funds added in, the total sum available came to 2,258,169,264 pesos, of which 1,133,266,250.47 pesos were allocated to investment. The agricultural, irrigation, and energy sectors received a total of 292,630,798.06 pesos. In particular, the National Institute of Water Resources (INDRHI) received the sum of 59,702,881.24 pesos for the construction and supervision of the Jiguey-Aguacate Dams, and the Sabaneta Dam project, as well as the building and repair of canals and the maintenance of other dams. The Dominican Electricity Corporation received 62,372,028.51 pesos to cover the commitments of that institution and to help with the improvements of the energy system in our country.

"The Dominican Agrarian Institute (IAD) received 16,356,287.47 pesos for the implementation of various projects and the financing of a number of farm programs. The State Sugar Council received 50 million pesos for launching the harvest at five sugar mills. The Farm Bank received 85 million pesos for the execution of the Northwest Small Producers Project and the financing of small and average farm producers. The Special Fund for Agricultural-Livestock Development (FEDA) received 2,303,577.94 pesos for the intensification of the programs of support for farm production and other related purposes. The La Cruz de Manzanillo project received 2,178,188 pesos for the planting of various farm crops. The Secretariat of State for Agriculture received 38 million pesos to provide support to small and average farmers and to carry out the various farm programs and projects.

"The National Institute of Drinking Water and Sewage received the sum of 93,025,129.59 pesos for the construction of the Puerto Plata, San Pedro de Macoris, San Cristobal, La Vega, and Duverge aqueducts, as well as others in various localities in the country.

"The Central Bank of the Republic received 112 million pesos for payment of the public debt. The Santo Domingo Water Works and Sewage Corporation was given 81,636,443.33 pesos for the building of the Valdesia-Santo Domingo aqueducts, the Cibao Central aqueduct, and other works.

"And finally, the Secretariat of State of Public Works and Communications received allocations coming to a total of 374,547,115.20 pesos, the State Works Supervisors' Office received 90 million pesos, and the Office for the Coordination and Supervision of State Projects received 58,324,637.77 pesos for the execution of projects and programs of social and economic interest throughout the Republic, including housing, airport, port, free zone, aqueduct, sewage networks, highway, local road, street maintenance, and historic monument projects."

Central Bank Reserves Reach Year-End High

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 31 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] On 31 December of last year, the Central Bank had total reserves in foreign exchange amounting to $736 million, the highest figure in history.

This reserve total showed an increase of $155 million over the figure at the end of 1992, the public relations department of the bank reported.

With reserves at this level, the institution will be able to cover any unusual increase in foreign exchange, thus avoiding the creation of distortions in the exchange rate.

It will also be able to cover the payment obligations to be met on the basis of the plans for this year.

Concerning the sales of foreign exchange to the commercial banks, it was reported that in the last two days of the week, the Central Bank sold $25 million at the exchange rate of 12.50 Dominican pesos, plus the bank commission of 2 percent.

The result of this injection of dollars into the foreign exchange market was the demonetization of 319 million pesos.

The exchange rate of 12.50 pesos becomes 12.75 with the addition of the bank commission of 2 percent, the official rate being multiplied by a factor of 1.02.

The volume of dollars injected into the market at the effective exchange rate of 12.75 pesos generated the 19 million pesos that were demonetized, the public relations department reported.

With the participation of the Central Bank on the market through the purchase and sale of foreign exchange, it will be able to maintain a liquidity volume in Dominican pesos that is sufficient for a healthy level of growth in the economy, the report said.

It added that this will be done without affecting price stability, the real rate of exchange, or the macroeconomic aggregates achieved beginning in 1991.

The injections of foreign exchange into the market may serve various purposes. One of these would be to obtain Dominican pesos with a view to demonetization, in order to continue the restriction of the means of payment in general and to control the currency in circulation.

Another choice would be to inject dollars into the market for the purpose of keeping the exchange rate stable and avoiding a certain increase therein.

The injection of foreign exchange has been effected by the Central Bank at the official exchange rate, without regard to the existing rate on the free foreignexchange market.

The bank added that in its view, the economic development of the nation, in terms of economic growth with price and foreign exchange stability, has been "the outstanding characteristic of the Dominican economy."

This is how it has described the situation in its reports to international bodies, the source added.

Haiti

Ambassador States U.S. Position on Crisis Resolution Plan

FL2303215194 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] The United States pointed out on 22 March that it is important for the Haitian Senate to pass—and soon—the parliamentary plan for solving the crisis. U.S. Ambassador William Lacy Swing has warned that any Senate member who would prevent the Senate from fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities will be considered by the U.S. Government to be acting in disregard of the New York pact.

Mr. Swing was referring to the senators elected in the 18 January 1993 elections, not acknowledged by the international community. Ambassador Swing reminded them of their responsibility to fully and officially respect the commitments to which they subscribed within the framework of the New York pact.

This pact, made in July 1993 by Haiti's antagonistic political forces, provides for those [contested] parliamentarians to refrain from sitting in parliament until a solution is found regarding their status.

The Haitian Senate is divided into two antagonistic blocs: one led by Senator Firmin Jean-Louis, recognized by the international community; the other by Sen. Bernard Sansaricq, whom the unacknowledged senators elected their leader. Only one of these [contested] senators, Serge Gilles [head of the Nationalistic Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti], a socialist official, continues to respect the New York pact. The others say the arbitration commitments provided for in this pact have not been respected.

The parliamentary plan for solving the Haitian crisis provides for the early retirement of General Raoul Cedras, head of the Army, before a new prime minister takes office—but sets no date for the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti.

U.S. Ambassador's 'Meddling' Angers Parliamentarians

FL2303220394 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Dejean Belizaire has thumped the table with his fist. Belizaire, president of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP], has shouted: Meddling! In Belizaire's opinion, it is not up to U.S. Ambassador to Haiti William Lacy Swing to ask the parliamentarians elected on 18 January to respect the New York pact. The following is a report by Daly Valet:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Valet] The nation's political crisis has begun to deteriorate. The problems of the high cost of living and the blackouts have turned the country, especially Port- au-Prince, into a hell. If the political authorities fail to take action, there could be social explosions leading to civil war in Haiti. Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer has not ruled out this danger, because hunger drives the wolf out of the woods.

The U.S. Government also is aware of the fact that the worst can happen if the country's political crisis continues. This is why William Lacy Swing, U.S. ambassador to Haiti, has turned into a malevolent, master voodoo priest [yon papa boko] who wishes to bring the zombies that the Governors Island agreement and New York pact constitute back to life. The ambassador has disinterred the dead bodies of these two political documents, and is asking all the signers to respect their signatures.

Regarding the [contested] parliamentarians elected on 18 January, the U.S. ambassador is very firm: He has asked them to respect the New York pact, which requires them to abstain [from participating in parliamentary activity]. This has angered Dejean Belizaire.

[Belizaire] To become senator, on 18 January 1993, I campaigned under the slogan: The nation's independence is in danger. We must defend it. So I can hardly understand how today I, a senator of the Republic and a Haitian citizen, could be in such a situation, to have to obey orders given by Mr. Swing. Dejean Belizaire is a legitimate citizen. The parliamentarians elected on 18 January are legitimate citizens. We are therefore telling the ambassador that he has gone too far in his meddling in the country's internal affairs.

They may be able to give orders to President Aristide, but they cannot give orders to the senators elected on 18 January. [passage omitted]

[Valet] The U.S. ambassador's statements have angered the entire group of legislators elected on 18 January. All of them have used nationalistic words to reply to the ambassador, and have spoken of meddling and violation of the senators' independence. Margareth Martin is even more radical in her reaction. Her main demands are that the New York pact be declared null and void, that the country's president be impeached, and [that] Article 149 [be implemented]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Pope Meets With Visiting Haitian Bishops

FL2303125494 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 18 Mar

[Excerpt] On Friday, 18 March, Pope John Paul II renewed the call for dialogue with all the components of Haitian society that he had issued on 15 January. It is up to the Haitians, he stated in a speech to the Haitian bishops who came to Rome on their quinquennial visit, to build their future based on the principles about which you have reminded them recently. The pope mentioned in his speech Haiti's numerous problems to which are added, he said, the obsessive problems created by the political instability and the economic embargo and most of all the shattering show of a nation in distress which is struggling day after day in order to survive. [passage omitted]

Executive Says NAFTA To Hurt Small Firms, Profit Margins

PA2303020494 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 18 Mar 94 p 18

[Article by Arturo Gomez Salgado]

[Text] Fernando Perez, president of the Mexican Association of Purchasing and Materials Management Executives, has estimated that 47 percent of the nation's firms are still facing serious productivity problems, adding that it will be very difficult for them to reach improved production levels within the next two years. Perez warned that NAFTA will trigger the closing of more small and micro-businesses.

Perez asserted that those who want to remain in the market will have to accept a substantial reduction in profit margins, which averaged about 30 percent until about a year ago. Perez stressed that new market strategies and aggressive competition will force most businesses to operate with single-digit profit margins at best. He added that the challenge lies in being more productive and competitive, which requires radical transformations that many companies will not be able to make.

Perez asserted that the time to reduce prices based on reductions in personnel has ended, and he noted, "it is crucial to promote programs that are imminently productive and that involve eliminating losses and the squandering of manhours."

He argued that because of problems rooted in years of operating within a closed economy, many industrialists will not be able to meet the challenges posed by NAFTA. He added that their final fate could be their virtual elimination in the face of increasingly aggressive competition and progressive diversification of quality products and decreasing prices.

Perez reiterated that those companies that want to survive will, above all else, have to merge with similar suppliers of capital and vanguard technology and accept, from now on, single-digit profit margins.

Perez believes the national economy is tending toward stabilization, although he admitted it is experiencing some volatility. He added that the economic slowdown, the lack of liquidity, and recent political instability helped trigger a 30-percent drop in business purchases. Perez admitted that political instability persists, and he added that this is why it will not be until after the 21 August elections, and once all of the macroeconomic variables are accurately defined, that investment in all sectors will be truly reactivated.

Carlos Campos de la Vega, a consultant for Mexico's Nickerson Company, says large corporate inventories that have reached 30 percent in many cases present a large problem. Campos expressed his support for greater diversification of products to promote competition. In addition, he indicated that if radical changes are not made within production lines, small and micro-businesses, which unfortunately show the greatest opposition to the commercial opening, will continue to vanish.

Both Perez and Campos spoke within the context of the topic: "The Effects of NAFTA on Mexican Businesses." Both agreed that such opening will generate benefits, which will result in greater productivity and competition, but that it will also involve costs, such as growing unemployment generated by the economic slowdown and the closing of hundreds of small and micro-businesses which cannot face the challenges of greater productivity and competition.

Colosio Shot, Killed in Attack During Tijuana Campaign Stop

Shot Three Times

PA2403034094 Mexico City Radio Acir Network in Spanish 0255 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Our companion Elizabeth Diaz Otero has reported the following: Luis Donaldo Colosio sustained a bullet wound in the head, near the right temple and two bullets in the abdomen, not one, but two. The Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] presidential candidate sustained three bullet wounds. He is undergoing surgery. He has lost a lot of blood, which has been replenished by the doctors of Central Hospital in the city of Tijuana, Baja California. Luis Donaldo Colosio is being transferred at this moment to the (?Schlips) Clinic in La Joya, California, where he will be treated by doctors who approximately 45 minutes ago were alerted to receive Mr. Colosio in order to give him proper treatment.

Regarding the attackers, two persons are under arrest. One is between 20 and 25 years of age. The young man has curly hair. He was arrested by the PRI presidential candidate's security agents. The group is headed by General Ramiro Garcia Reyes. They were arrested by agents of the Judicial Federal Police [PFJ] garrison in Tijuana. Neither the motives are known, nor the names of the perpetrators. Witnesses to the incident said that as of 1905 [time as heard] veritable chaos has prevailed in the city of Tijuana. We are awaiting more information regarding this attack.

Salinas: 'Odious' Attack

PA2403040694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0321 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Message to the nation by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari from Los Pinos presidential palace in Mexico City on 23 March—recorded]

[Text] Compatriots, a few minutes ago an odious attack was carried out against Luis Donaldo Colosio. It is an action that deeply hurts us, and me particularly, because this is an attack on a human being. In addition, it is against a noble man, a good man, who seeks to serve others and to serve his country. I have already heard many voices express their consternation with this incident and their all-out rejection of this attack. I am in constant contact to learn about Colosio's condition. I have sent my sympathy to his family. I have sent my personal physician and an expert to help the doctors attending him.

I have been informed that arrests have been made. I have given instructions to the attorney general to travel to Tijuana to help in the investigation. We will get to the bottom of this and the full weight of the law shall be applied.

The most important thing right now is Luis Donaldo Colosio's health. I am certain that if we all join in our sentiments of compassion and serenity and direct them positively, it will be good for him and good for all of us. Personally, this is a very painful matter, as he is a beloved Mexican. I offer him and his family all my affection and warmth. [end recording]

Camacho Solis Comments

PA2403035694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0223 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis stated a few minutes ago in Chiapas that the attack on PRI candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio is an attack against peace and against the nation. Camacho Solis said a few minutes ago that he joins in with all Mexicans to reject the attack perpetrated this afternoon against Luis Donaldo Colosio. What happened, said Colosio, is a big offense against his family and against all of us. Here is Juan Carlos Antoyo reporting from Chiapas.

[Antoyo] Camacho Solis was to give a report, a summary on the Chiapas situation. We were summoned at 1900 [0100 GMT] but the message did not arrive. Suddenly there was silence and reactions were soon felt; the news was released. Manuel Camacho Solis arrived one hour later to give this brief statement that he had written by hand on a piece of paper. The following is his message:

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] The information I was to release today will be made known in the following days. I have just communicated with Mexico City and was told that Luis Donaldo Colosio is in the hands of the best Mexican doctors. I join the whole nation's indignation for the attack against Luis Donaldo Colosio's life. What occurred is an attack against peace and democracy in the nation. The highest value is the individual's life and his dignity. What has occurred is a great offense against his family, all our families, and the nation. [end recording]

[Antoyo] This is all Camacho Solis said.

PAN Suspends Campaign

PA2403043994 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0312 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Carlos Castillo Peraza, president of the National Action Party, by Javier Zabludovsky—live]

[Excerpt] [Castillo] Mr. Zabludovsky. I want to officially communicate on the part of the National Action Party [PAN] that our party is suspending its presidential campaign until things return to normal, out of respect for political equality and in solidarity with the sorrow of Candidate Colosio's family and because of our desire to help national emotions calm down and so that sense and prudence will prevail.

Also, I want to tell you that I am in contact with Hector Osuna, PAN mayor of Tijuana, who gave me the following report: Yesterday, those responsible for security

for Mr. Colosio's delegation met with the mayor and with the person in charge of security and asked them for all their support for Candidate Colosio's tour. It was given immediately. The group charged with security for Mr. Colosio said they only needed four patrol cars because they did not foresee anything serious happening except for maybe some demonstrations by some dissidents or groups opposed to the PRI. Because of this, they were given four patrol cars to clear the way for the presidential candidate's delegation. This was confirmed this morning in a breakfast with some members of the Army also in charge of security and with Mr. Benitez, who is in charge of public security for Baja California. I am saying this, so that it will be clear that the PAN mayor of Tijuana offered as much help as was requested. The persons in charge of security were not anticipating anything serious except for perhaps some small demonstrations by dissidents of the PRI in Tijuana.

[Zabludovsky] Do you mean that the scarce vigilance in Tijuana Municipality, whose mayor is a member of the PAN, was because the organizers of Mr. Colosio's rally felt that more security was not needed?

[Castillo] That is right, sir. They only asked for four patrol cars when the mayor's office was willing to give them whatever they needed. They were given exactly what they asked for. [passage omitted]

Colosio's Death Confirmed

PA2403050194 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0438 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has confirmed the death of Luis Donaldo Colosio, presidential candidate for the Institutional Revolutionary Party.

Salinas Deplores Death

PA2403081194 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 0732 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Speech By Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari from Los Pinos Presidential Palace; monitored in progress—live or recorded]

[Text] ...Luis Donaldo Colosio has died today. This is a deeply indignant fact. It is a fact that offends us. It is an offense against all Mexicans and the institutions that we have built throughout our history. It has hurt the deepest convictions of the Mexican people, who have always favored the path of harmony, law, and peace, who have always rejected violence as a method to solve our problems.

There is no political or moral reason that justifies violence in Mexico. It is an affront, because a climate of dialogue, understanding, and of consensus prevailed among the political forces, to direct the diverse proposals along the path of law and legal reform. It is an affront to the PRI members, to the Sonora residents, and also to all Mexicans.

We do not accept that enemies of Mexico seek to twist the path of law and harmony. The loss of Luis Donaldo Colosio is the most profound call for Mexicans to remain united, to revive the awareness that we are people of great moral strength, and that in the face of adversity, we know how to make use of our values and energy to strengthen the firmness of our institutions.

As president of the Republic, I am determined to act forcefully. I will ensure that the law is applied rigorously and that this crime will be fully clarified. Nobody is above the law. Mexicans must be sure that the Constitution and the law will be complied with at all times.

I am making a call for harmony. I have received from political and party leaders expressions of their conviction and commitment to act responsibly in keeping with the new circumstances. We will maintain our regime of freedom and the constitutional order.

As a Mexican, and as a friend of Luis Donaldo Colosio, I have a lot of affection to offer to his family, his wife Diana Laura, his son Luis Donaldo, and his daughter Mariana. Their pain is not beyond me, and I will try to ease their loss with my closest friendship.

I urge all my compatriots to remain calm despite their indignation. I call on you to reaffirm our shared conviction that we will be able to overcome this aggravation within the framework of the institutions and the law.

The greatest show of love for Mexico and faith in its future at this time will be accomplished by reinforcing our unity and ensuring that our voice of harmony, as one people, is heard in all parts of our homeland and the entire world.

24 March Day of Mourning

PA2403123994 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] At approximately 0515, President Salinas de Gortari decreed that Thursday, 24 March, will be a day of national mourning. All Mexican flags will fly half-mast at public buildings, schools, banks, and at all municipal palaces in Mexican towns as a sign of mourning over the death of Luis Donaldo Colosio.

Suspects Identified

PA2403050294 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0359 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Phone interview with Antonio Cano Jimenez, president of the Tijuana Municipal Council of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, by Jacobo Zabludovsky—live]

[Excerpts] [Zabludovsky] According to an interview with witnesses at the scene of this event, it seems that one of the suspects, currently under arrest as one of the assailants, recently worked in a funeral parlor in Tijuana. That would indicate that one, or possibly both suspects are

residents of Tijuana. [Passage omitted] Mr. Cano, do you know either of the suspects?

[Cano] No, sir, I do not.

[Zabludovsky] I will give you the names, which we now have here, in case you have heard of them. Are you from Tijuana?

[Cano] Yes sir.

[Zabludovsky] One is Mario Aburto Martinez, 23 years old. The other is Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela.

[Cano] I do not know them.

[Zabludovsky] He is 45 years old.

[Cano] I do not know them, Mr. Zabludovsky. [passage omitted]

Special Prosecutor Appointed

PA2403140994 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1210 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Last night in Tijuana, Diego Valadez, attorney general of the republic, said that the authorities will strictly abide by the law, applying its full weight against those responsible for the murder of PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta.

Upon arrival at Tijuana General Hospital, where Luis Donaldo Colosio died of two gunshot wounds, Attorney General Diego Valadez said he has been specifically instructed by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to direct the investigation. The president of the Republic appointed (Santiago Unate Laborde), one of Luis Donaldo Colosio's close collaborators, to be special prosecutor in charge of investigating the attack.

Diego Valadez reported that officials from the Attorney General's Office [PGR] will participate in the investigations in order to clarify the events that took place at 1708 Tijuana time, which is 1908 Mexico City time [0108 GMT].

The PGR official confirmed that two people have been arrested. He pointed out that his office will release information to the public as the investigation proceeds.

At approximately 2230 Tijuana time, which is 0030 Mexico City time [0630 GMT], the PGR issued a communique in Tijuana, in which it confirmed that the person who shot and killed Luis Donaldo Colosio has confessed that he fired four times on Luis Donaldo Colosio. Only two shots, fired from a .38 special revolver, hit Luis Donaldo Colosio, one in the abdomen and the other behind the right ear.

Prior to entering the area where Colosio Murrieta's remains were being held, the attorney general of the republic insisted that justice and the law will prevail in Mexico and that firm action will be taken to clear up absolutely everything.

Preliminary Information Released

PA2403143494 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 24 Mar 94

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] Raul Sanchez Carrizo reports that two people have been arrested in connection with the killing of PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio.

You have already seen the two assassins on your TV screens. One of them is Mario Aburto Martinez, 23. There are two alleged killers. They are already under arrest. One of them fired at the PRI candidate. He is on screen right now. He is Mario Aburto Martinez, 23. This morning, the Tijuana State Prosecutor's Office conducted a Harrison Test on him, and the test was positive. The Prosecutor's Office reports this confirms that the suspect had indeed fired a gun.

Preliminary Investigation No. 739-94 initiated in the killing of Luis Donaldo Colosio indicates Aburto Martinez used a .38 caliber pistol. The investigation also says the suspect is from Zamora, Michoacan, where he lived until age 15.

Aburto Martinez said in his initial statement that he is not going to talk, even if he is tortured. This is in line with the disdainful disposition that, according to witnesses, he assumed after attacking the presidential candidate. At the moment of his apprehension by an angry crowd, he bragged he had fired on Colosio.

Preliminary investigations have established that the alleged assassin lives in Mexicali and also has a residence in Tijuana, that he has four brothers who live in the United States, and that he works in a mechanic shop in Buenos Aires Norte neighborhood, in (Mesa de Otay), Tijuana.

He said he is the author of pacifist books that he has already delivered to the foreign media.

Amid a great deal of secrecy, the Federal Attorney General's Office is also interrogating Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela, a man arrested as a witness [testigo]. Mayoral Valenzuela is also from the border city of Tijuana.

Attorney General Diego Valadez has been in that city since last night.

PRI 'Militants' Demand Justice

PA2403134094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1142 GMT 24 Mar 94

[By Alfonso Barea]

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Mar (EFE)—Thousands of enraged supporters of the PRI have taken to the streets of Mexico City to demand justice in connection with the assassination of PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio.

PRI supporters who gathered in front of party headquarters in this capital a few minutes before the report that Colosio had died on the operating table at Tijuana General Hospital have repeatedly called for justice and unity.

Throughout the night, however, calls for unity were intermingled with shouts of "Colosio, yes; Camacho, no" from PRI militants who could not hold back their tears. Colosio's rivalry with Manuel Camacho Solis, the commissioner of peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, to succeed Carlos Salinas de Gortari as Mexico's president had continued even after Colosio was designated as the party's official candidate. Last night, many PRI militants warned the party leadership that they would not tolerate the former foreign minister's becoming president.

A group of women who had gathered outside PRI headquarters proclaimed: "We want justice." The tense and emotional situation that pervaded the site exploded the moment officials and militants heard on television that the candidate had died. While some people cried in offices, other militants tried to organize public meetings by party leaders while unsuccessfully trying to keep back thousands of people who had gathered outside the building.

A woman near a table covered with candles said, "There are many traitors, and it is not good to divide the country." The people nearby applauded her, apparently understanding the meaning of her statement.

The people shouted party slogans and expressions of support for Colosio, but they did not heed a suggestion to sing a "corrido [a traditional folk genre in which a person's life or accomplishments are praised in song] for Colosio" in honor of the candidate.

Colosio's followers remain gathered around the PRI building, where they will hold a vigil today when Colosio's body is brought to a chapel to be installed at the PRI headquarters.

All Financial Activities Suspended

PA2403135294 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Press bulletin issued by the Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretariat's Social Communication Office in Mexico City on 24 March]

[Text] Given yesterday's tragic events, the financial sector supports the expressions of mourning conveyed by the government of the Republic. Consequently, financial authorities have made the following decisions:

1. The National Banking Commission, on the basis of Article 95 of the Credit Institutions Law, decrees that these institutions will shut down and suspend operations today, Thursday, 24 March.

2. The National Stock Market Commission, on the basis of Article 41, Section 16, of the Stock Market Law, decrees that stock brokerages and the Mexican Stock Market will shut down and suspend operations today.

3. The Bank of Mexico, on the basis of the provisions of Article 86 of the Law on Credit Organizations and Auxiliary Activities, decrees that foreign exchange dealers will suspend all operations.

Given the above, today will be a holiday for legal purposes and as far as banking, stock market, and foreign exchange operations are concerned.

All financial sector activities will resume normal operations tomorrow, Friday, 25 March 1994.

Investors Urged Not To Abandon Market

PA2403144994 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1234 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Report by Elizabeth Diaz Otero]

[Text] Luis German Carcova, president of the Business Coordinating Council, has made a spirited appeal to foreign investors not to withdraw from the Mexican Stock Market—a most volatile market.

The council has urged national and foreign investors who have capital investments in Mexico to remain calm and not to make hasty decisions. Luis German Carcova said the best way to demonstrate a love for the country is to confront the situation and to keep working.

[Begin Carcova recording] We ask them to remain calm and to look at and analyze the situation carefully. We have to determine within the next few hours how to best face this situation. I am certain we will be able to resolve this situation and that the Mexican people will continue to move ahead. No one can stop us, and no one will.

We ask them to remain calm and not to make hasty decisions. This is a time to demonstrate maturity and love for our country. One of the best ways businessmen and investors can demonstrate this love is by not splitting up, but, as the saying goes, by sticking to their guns—namely, work, investments, and the generation of wealth and jobs. [end recording]

Carcova said he is angry about the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio. [words indistinct] a leader of organized businessmen, has said that in Mexico there are groups interested in destabilizing the nation. The murder of Luis Donaldo Colosio is clear evidence of this, he said.

In an interview at Los Pinos, Manuel Robleda, president of the Mexican Stock Market, did not want, or was unable, to predict what repercussions this event might have on the stock market.

PRD Candidate Reacts

PA2403154794 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1221 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano's office remained open until very early this morning. The office is located in Lomas de Chapultepec, very close to Radio ACIR. Cuahtemoc Cardenas met with members of the PRD National Council, chaired by Porfirio Munoz Ledo, to discuss the situation following the murder of Luis Donaldo Colosio, PRI candidate. The following is a report of what happened early this morning at the PRD office.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The PRD joined the country's political organizations unanimous rejection of the murder of Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta. PRD presidential candidate Cuahtemoc Cardenas has voiced his sorrow for the violent action that took the life of the PRI candidate. He strongly condemned Colosio's murder and demanded it be immediately resolved.

[Cardenas] We deeply regret and strongly condemn this action, which should be resolved. All Mexicans, and particularly his family, must learn the motives that caused the Colosio's murderers to commit such a deplorable action.

[Reporter] Cardenas Solorzano, who met until very early this morning with the members of his party's National Council, has just suspended his campaign tour in Tlaxcala State. Cardenas said it is necessary to reestablish normalcy in the country's institutions, and added that the government has the obligation of guaranteeing the security of all citizens and those participating in the political events of the nation until the August elections are held. The elections will become the fulcrum to reestablishing the unity of all Mexicans.

[Cardenas] We must restore normalcy to the country's institutions. We must have full guarantees for the development of the country's normal everyday activities, including economic, social, and political activities. The government has the obligation of offering security to all citizens. The government must also provide security to all of us as we exercise our rights so political activities continue and culminate in the elections, which we believe must be the point that will reestablish the unity of all Mexicans.

[Reporter] The PRD candidate, who will personally present his condolences to the Colosio family and the PRI leadership, has urged citizens to remain united so that normalcy of the country's institutions can be restored as soon as possible. Cardenas Solorzano said that although he will continue with his electoral campaign as scheduled, he will modify his most recent calendar activities.

[Cardenas] For the time being, the trip we had planned to Oaxaca State will not take place, and we will closely follow what happens these next few days. We will watch to see what other organizations as well as the progovernment party will do. According to its own statutes, it will have to replace the candidate. We will see what it does. It will be a new event of great importance for the country.

[Reporter] The PRD candidate, who talked to the press after meeting with his party's National Council at his private office in Las Lomas, said he thought it unadvisable and risky to postpone the August elections.

[Cardenas] It would be more traumatic to think the elections will not be held. That is why we feel the elections should be held, regardless of the fact we know we are experiencing an extremely delicate situation. We can save our institutions and save the law by reaffirming the life of our institutions. [end recording]

New PRI Candidate Named 'Over Time'

PA2403143894 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1410 GMT 24 Mar 94

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" nescast]

[Text] The National Executive Council of the PRI released a communique at 0300 local time today reporting on a meeting with President Salinas. This is the text of a paragraph of the communique on whether another presidential candidate could be designated today:

In this private meeting, it was said that the indignation and grief of the PRI will not permit decisions that only PRI members should make. To honor Colosio and in memory of his message of unity and harmony among Mexicans, we will meet our commitments and our political responsibility over time.

El Salvador

ARENA Candidate 'Ready To Defeat' Leftists

PA2303143694 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Report by Wilfredo Cordoba from the "KL Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Armando Calderon Sol, presidential candidate for the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], said a few minutes ago that he is ready to defeat the leftist coalition in a runoff election and added that he is unafraid of facing a centrist-leftist coalition. The politician also mentioned the irregularities that emerged in last Sunday's elections.

[Begin recording] [Calderon Sol] It has been proven that the Salvadoran people do not want the radical left. It has been a vote to reject them. I do believe they have won a political opening for democratic opposition and an opportunity to demonstrate their adherence to the system. We hope they can finally join the country's political life.

[Unidentified reporter] Is there going to be a vote recount? Are you going to call for a vote recount to see if you can [words indistinct]?

[Calderon Sol] We are not interested in discussing the first round. If a runoff election is needed, we will support it because we want a clear, impressive, and marvelous mandate. We know we are going to have 70 percent support or more, perhaps 75 percent. It is going to be a clear, definitive, five-year mandate.

[Reporter] What were the most serious problems surrounding the elections?

[Calderon Sol] I believe it was the situation at the voting centers, the lack of information for voters, and the logistics problems that existed that day. The real problem was the lack of information for voters.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Calderon Sol] On the contrary, we have a month to tell the truth to the Salvadoran people. I believe the Supreme Electoral Tribunal will be forced to do an evaluation and correct the mistakes that were made. That way we can have a massive turnout in the next elections, and I am sure that all the Salvadoran people will accompany us. [end recording]

That was a portion of the statements made by Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, presidential candidate for the ruling ARENA. Meanwhile, at the vote counting center, there is speculation about the number of deputies' seats that could have been won by the various political parties after certain percentages were made known. According to unofficial figures made available so far, ARENA would have obtained 40 deputies; the FMLN, 20 deputies; the Christian Democratic Party, 16 deputies; Democratic Convergence, three deputies; the National Conciliation Party, three deputies; and the Unity Movement, one deputy. These are unofficial figures that could change once the total number of votes obtained from each of the departments is made available.

Guatemala

De Leon Extends Condolences to Mexican People

PA2403072894 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0611 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Phone interview with President Ramiro de Leon Carpio by Jacobo Zabludovsky—live]

[Text] [Zabludovsky] Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio is on the telephone. Mr. President, we hear you.

[De Leon] With great consternation, I wish to voice, on behalf of the people and Government of Guatemala, that the tragic death of Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta, presidential candidate for the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] of Mexico, has filled me with consternation, because of the loss of an outstanding and important statesman for the democratic development of a sister country and also because I had friendship ties with him that were strengthened when he visited us as senator and president of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties.

I wish to tell you that on that occasion, when I had the privilege of talking to him, we identified with our respective projects, he as political leader, and I as human rights ombudsman. Recently, he sent me a political envoy to advise me that in his program he would include the strengthening of relations between our countries, because he believed that geographical neighborhoods should be the object of broad and constructive cooperation.

I think that the Mexican people are astonished, from what I have seen on television, at a crime that is condemnable from every standpoint, but the Mexican people, I think, have solid and firm institutions that are capable of overcoming unreasonable acts of violence that have been occurring everywhere in the world. In this case, they have been happening in Mexico since 1 January to the detriment of the Mexican people.

The answer to provocations is within the framework of a legal regime, and, I think, it is based on the permanent inclination to ensure that justice is served, as has always been the case in the Mexican nation.

The political message of Colosio gains greater strength and I think that it has become more legitimate and pure, and stands as an example for all world democratic sectors. I sent my personal message to President Salinas de Gortari, with whom I met recently during a state visit,

an official visit in Mexico. I expressed my solidarity with him in this time of mourning.

I told him that Guatemalans view him as a serene leader, and thus, we trust that despite the pain of this drama, he will, as well as the Mexicans, be able to overcome such as regrettable and condemnable incident, such as the one that transpired on the evening of 23 March.

I also addressed, via our diplomatic mission in Mexico, the esteemed family of the illustrious missing one to voice my sorrow and the sorrow of my family, government, and Guatemalan people. I urged them to be strong in view of this regrettable incident and to have faith in God to win comfort. I said that the notable social and political accomplishments should be the best homage to his memory.

As for the PRI and the other legal and democratic political forces of Mexico, I take advantage of this opportunity to voice our trust that as neighbors and brothers we will preserve peace with democracy and justice. We hope that the death of a just person will move us to reflection to pay homage to him by making his wishes come true.

I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to express the deep sorrow that overtakes me this evening, because of the loss of a Mexican patriot, and because, in one way or another, this event constitutes a shakeup and commotion among a people, who in contrast to ours, is not used to this kind of violent act. I regret this profoundly, from a human standpoint, because the most precious thing to a human being is his live, and in this case it was taken away from Colosio.

In my role as president of Guatemala, however, I lament this and express my sorrow to the Mexican people, who in the end are suffering consequences and it is unfair for them to suffer. We regret the events that have occurred since 1 January and events on the evening of 23 March, because we, the Guatemalan people, have suffered for so many years these kinds of violent acts, which lead nowhere.

As I said earlier, I expressed my sorrow to his family, to President Salinas de Gortari, but I especially extend my condolences to the Mexican people, whom I urge to be as strong and firm as possible to preserve democracy with justice, and above all, to ensure trust in its democratic institutions that for so many years have been an example for Latin America.

[Zabludovsky] Thank you very much, Mr. President.

[De Leon] Thank you very much. I reiterate my condolences to all the people of Mexico.

Nicaragua

Ortega Legal Status Unclear Due to Genie Case

PA2303201894 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Mar 94 pp 1,12

[Report by Eloisa Ibarra A.]

[Text] According to statements by private Attorney Daniel Olivas Zuniga [the private attorney representing the Genie family interests], General Humberto Ortega is barred from exercising his duties as head of the Armed forces as long as the precautionary measures ordered yesterday by Military Prosecutor Lester Gallo remains in effect.

Yesterday, after Ortega concluded his testimony on the Genie case, Gallo proceeded to order a house arrest for the general as per a request by the victims father, Mr. Raymond Genie Penalba.

Private Attorney Olivas explained that Gen. Ortega's military rank is not being withdrawn as a result of the precautionary measure, but his movements and duties as EPS [Sandinist People's Army] chief have been restricted. According to the attorney, "at this time he is not the chief." He added that should Ortega's endorsement as EPS chief be required, he would be disqualified from proceeding unless the documents had been dated prior to the date when the house arrest orders were issued. [sentence as received]

Ortega was questioned yesterday for more than five hours by Military Prosecutor Lester Gallo, the defense lawyer, and the private attorney in order to learn what he really knows about the 28 October 1990 crime against Jean Paul Genie. The general and his bodyguards are charged with being the alleged perpetrators, accomplices, and accessories to the death of Genie since they shot him to death on the night of 28 October 1990 when he tried to pass them at the 8 km marker on the Masaya highway.

Before proceeding to testify, Ortega presented a writ whereby he voluntarily disqualifies himself from duties directly linked to his military obligations as long as the Genie enquiries lasts. Mr. Olivas explained that with the general's disqualification, he, as head of the Armed Forces, will no longer have to decide if the case, in which he is one of the accused, is to be annulled or not. In this case, it will be up to the other members of the EPS General Command to decide if an annulment request will or will not be presented to the Supreme Court of Justice.

During lengthy questioning, the EPS chief stated that on the day the incident occurred, after leaving the home of Colonel Lenin Cerna he went to the general command offices and later to his home where he remained all night. The general also stated that on that particular day his chief of security was Roberto Chacon and that they were not carrying any weapons.

When asked by the private attorney if he was responsible for giving the orders during the incident, Ortega answered: no, that was the chief of security's responsibility. Based on Ortega's statements, if an indictment is filed against his bodyguards, Roberto Chacon would be the person most likely to be charged with Genie's death given that he would be held responsible for having ordered the shooting.

Private Attorney Olivas questioned Ortega on the results of an investigation by the Venezuelan police, in response to which Ortega said that the report is technically inadequate and that they were not in Nicaragua long enough to arrive at serious conclusions. He also described the report as being "politicized."

On several occasions, the private attorney also questioned the general on the possible destruction of evidence and obstruction of police investigations. The military officer stated that the commission established to investigate the case in no way refused to cooperate with the police in their investigation. With respect to the destruction of the weapons withdrawal and surrender log, Ortega answered that it was normal procedure to destroy the documents once they were no longer needed.

After concluding his testimony, Ortega described the accusations as "a well orchestrated campaign by unimportant groups who have taken advantage of the Genie family's misfortunes to attack the EPS."

Ortega's statements were refuted by Raymond Genie who said that the charges are against the general and not the EPS, and that he has never lent himself to be used in any campaign by any group whatsoever.

Yesterday, Gen. Humberto Ortega presented a motion to Military Prosecutor Lester Gallo disqualifying himself from some of his military obligations "directly linked to military jurisdiction" as long as inquiries related to the Genie case continue.

Defense Counsels Interpret Status

PA2303185094 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Mar 94 pp 1, 12

[Report by Oliver Bodan]

[Text] Mariano Barahona and Orlando Corrales, counsels for the defense of the eight bodyguards allegedly involved in Jean Paul Genie's murder, said yesterday that Army General Humberto Ortega is still commander of the Sandinist Armed Forces [EPS].

Barahona and Corrales flatly denied that the cautionary measure against Ortega meant a house arrest.

In addition, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate [DN] has expressed its moral support for the EPS Commander's "responsible stance" of appearing in court "with a constructive spirit." The FSLN DN backed all points in the letter Ortega addressed to the country. The FSLN DN agreed with Ortega on the existence of a smear campaign against the EPS unleashed by ultrarightists in Nicaragua and the United States. According to Article 103, Chapter IV of the Military Criminal Law, "the indicted person's pledge not to leave his home shall consist of the obligation not to leave the same, or any place where he might happen to be residing temporarily, without authorization from the prosecutor or the court, as the case may be, except to tend to his business, care for his health, or pursue higher education."

In an open letter, Barahona and Corrales insisted that Gen. Ortega only removed himself from learning about any procedure "directly or indirectly" connected with the trial. They also said that Ortega "has voluntarily resigned his jurisdictional powers."

According to the counsels for the defense, the cautionary ruling issued against Ortega was "unnecessary because the general has never refused to appear in court."

By contrast, Judge Advocate Lester Gallo Sandoval, who is in charge of the preliminary military investigations, has told BARRICADA that "the house arrest will continue for indefinitely but that he will continue to perform his normal functions."

Gallo said he will announce his "conclusions" in about six weeks. Inspector General Lieutenant Colonel Denis Moncada Colindres will then announce the final sentence, which can be appealed by the two parties through a writ of appeal presented to the Supreme Court of Justice. Regarding yesterday's doubts about whether Ortega had been temporarily suspended, the prosecutor said that "the president of the Republic," who is also the defense minister according to law, "is the person who decides whether he is suspended."

FSLN Directorate Backs Ortega

PA2303180794 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Mar 94 p 12

[Communique issued by the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front on 22 March; place not given]

[Text] The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate [DN] hereby voices its full moral support for the sensible attitude of Army Chief General Humberto Ortega, who went with a constructive spirit before a court of justice to give a deposition.

The DN agrees with all of the points in the letter made public yesterday by the army chief, who said there is an organized political manipulation over the sorrowful death of young Jean Paul Genie.

The DN expresses its solidarity with the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] in the face of an attempt to ruin the EPS' prestige and eliminate it through a campaign orchestrated by ultrarightist sectors from Nicaragua and the United States.

The EPS has been fundamentally an instrument of defense of sovereignty and self-determination, peace and reconciliation, and our people admit that. The Army has shown a high spirit of institutional discipline, and it is a solid guarantee for the stability of Nicaragua.

The government, the justice courts, civilian society, and the FSLN are obligated to consolidate that role. The FSLN hereby makes an appeal that tragic events such as the case of Jean Paul Genie not to be manipulated or politicized and that justice be expedited for the satisfaction of all Nicaraguans. Free fatherland or death. FSLN DN.

Deputy Minister Explains Role

PA2303151094 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 94

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Bernard Pallais has repeated the testimony he gave under oath at the 7th Criminal Court, which was in charge of the preliminary investigation of the murder of Jean Paul Genie, who was shot to death on 28 October 1990.

Dr. Pallais, who was deputy government minister at the time and in charge of public security, was subpoenaed to testify on Tuesday afternoon before the military judge, First Lieutenant Lester Gallo Sandoval. Pallais confirmed that, upon instructions from the government, he and high-ranking Police officers took over the investigation in connection with this case.

[Begin recording] [Pallais] Yes, I was summoned by the president of the Republic to participate in a meeting two or three days after the death. During the meeting I was told about the importance of this case because the victim's father had information that led him to believe it was possible that the shots came from a military motorcade. Consequently, and given that rumors...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] Doctor, did you...

[Pallais, interrupting] Given the rumors circulating which implied that the motorcade was led by Army General Humberto Ortega, I was instructed to supervise the investigations that the National Police had begun and to maintain close contacts with Mr. Genie so he would trust that justice would prevail and would therefore be inclined to cooperate in the investigation by giving the names of witnesses whom he had identified and who said they were afraid to testify. [end recording]

Drug-Related Crimes Increase 112 Percent

PA2003154394 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Eduardo Barberena S.]

[Text] While the Antidrug Bill stagnates at the National Assembly, drug trafficking and drug consumption continues to grow as the crisis that overwhelms us. According to the latest police reports for the 1981-89 and 1990-93 periods, the consumption of drugs has increased 112 percent.

Leonel Espinoza, National Police deputy director and regiment commander, presented the raw figures on drug trafficking and consumption of cocaine, crack, and marijuana to the National Assembly at a debate of the drug bill, which is being examined by magistrates, government ministry officials, and delegates from nongovernment organizations.

During the forum-debate, which was sponsored by the National Assembly, the Program to Support the Promotion of and Training for Human Rights in Central America [UCA-CEE], and the National Antidrug Committee, the deputy police chief gave a historical account of drug trafficking activities in the Atlantic up to 1989, when cocaine was traded for liquor, home appliances, and shrimp near Corn Island.

When the current government assumed office on 25 April 1990, the control and surveillance systems in the national territory virtually disintegrated and South American drug cartels launched a plan to make Nicaragua the springboard for shipping drugs to the United States, Europe, and other countries of the world. People who had relations with drug dealers in the United States began arriving in Nicaragua in 1990. These people had the ability to set up traffic routes and make the country a drug warehouse. "We have no doubts that large quantities of drugs are passing through Nicaragua en route to the United States," Commander Espinoza said in a debate attended by only five of the Assembly's 92 members. Criminal Prosecutor Jose Antonio Fletes and National Assembly Drug Commission head Doris Tijerino have criticized the absenteeism.

According to official statistics, 535.936 kg of cocaine were seized, 20 marijuana plots were discovered, and 145 people were arrested in 1990. In 1991, 761.642 kg of cocaine and 13 bundles plus 33 kg of marijuana were confiscated, 5,570 marijuana plants were destroyed, and 58 people were arrested. In 1992, the police seized 155.449 kg of cocaine, nine kg of heroin—the latter in an Ecuadoran-made picture frame bound for Ecuador from Istambul aboard a banana-carrying ship—and 1,124 pounds (lb) of marijuana, and 31,068 marijuana plants were destroyed. In addition, 430 people were arrested.

In 1993, authorities seized 96.209 kg of cocaine, 517 lb of marijuana, and 159 crack lumps, destroyed 9,408 plants, and arrested 1,517 people. This indicates a larger number of people involved in drug trafficking. In 1994, 540 kg of cocaine were confiscated in the Ocean Operation; 108 kg were confiscated in Puerto Cabezas in a boat reportedly to have arrived with 900 kg. The community of Sandy Bay and Brooklyn Rivera surrendered 93 kg. The police recovered another 20 kg. In all, 108 kg of

drugs were confiscated and later destroyed in Puerto Cabezas. Commander Espinoza confirmed that in Managua raids, the police have found cocaine from a shipment arriving aboard launches through Sandy Bay in the Atlantic.

From January to March this year, the police have seized 571 kg (450 in the Oceano Operation), 108 from Sandy Bay, and the rest from drug traffickers, Espinoza said. From 1990-93, 1,549.23 kg of cocaine were seized by the police. Of these, 1.227 tonnes came from the international drug market and 322 kg from the local market. Most of it from the Atlantic. The amounts seized have been increasing steadily. In comparison with international parameters, Nicaraguan authorities barely catch four percent of the total traffic. Comparing police statistics for the 1981-89 and 1990-93 periods, "we see that drug trafficking has increased 112 percent, a very alarming number," he said.

Referring to the drug bill which the Assembly is debating, he said it is essential. He pointed out, however, that some of the articles on confiscation "should specify that the drug seized should be accredited 50-50 percent to the Police and the Health and Education Ministries."

Argentina

Envoy to U.S. on Trade, Patents, Gore Visit, Clinton Agenda

PY2303174194 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with Argentine Ambassador to the United States Raul Granillo Ocampo by Sergio Crivelli; place and date not given]

[Text] [Crivelli] What is Argentina's real place on the United States' international agenda?

[Granillo Ocampo] The importance of the Argentine role is increasing. In the reformulation of the international scenario and in President Clinton's concept, Latin America is beginning to occupy a more important place, because it is growing as a trade partner. Latin America is the region where U.S. exports are increasing faster, nearly 18 percent per year, while in other areas they are paralyzed or decreasing. We must add to that the fact that principles supported by the U.S. Administration, such as democracy, the market economy, and the peaceful solution of conflicts, are becoming stronger here.

The U.S. people are very sparing in their praise. This is why if they say that the Argentine transition process is taking place very quickly, and that its results are spectacular, it is because they believe this to be the case. Our bilateral relations are also improving as a result of the fundamental objectives shared by the two countries: respect for democratic institutions, environmental protection, defense of human rights, and the peace and security concept defended by the United Nations.

[Crivelli] For decades Brazil played the role of a preferential U.S. partner in this region, but recently a deterioration has been noticed in Brasilia-Washington ties. Could Argentina take the place left vacant by the Brazilians?

[Granillo Ocampo] It definitely already is taking it.

[Crivelli] You have traveled with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Before his arrival in our country there was information that his agenda included, among other issues, corruption and drug trafficking. Were the problems encountered by U.S. companies in participating in the privatizations discussed?

[Granillo Ocampo] It would be appropriate to make clear that there was a real agenda—following talks between the two sides—and another agenda concocted by the press on the basis of isolated reports. The issues of corruption, drug trafficking, or independent courts were never included in the real agenda. These issues were also not discussed during the two visits that Gore paid to President Menem. It is true that there are some companies that complain about problems in entering our country over what we may describe as the practice of corruption, but this does not seem to be the rule. During the past two years almost all the privatizations have been awarded to U.S. companies. If they were not successful bidders during the first two years it was because they did not participate. During that period, they actually did not believe in the privatization process.

[Crivelli] There is one inevitable issue, either on the real agenda or on that of the newspapers: the patents law. Does it have a deadline? Is it 30 April? What is the situation right now?

[Granillo Ocampo] From the correct perspective, the issue is like this: We made an international commitment, the GATT agreement, and therefore we must at least promulgate a law. In addition to that, there is a commitment marked by our interest in joining NAFTA. If we want to harmonize our policy with the United States in that field, it is necessary to accept some rules. It is not a question of giving in to a big stick policy.

The members of NAFTA—Mexico, Canada, and the United States—have defined a minimum level for the patents law, and this is what is being negotiated. What would be best for us, reject NAFTA and not have a patents law, or have a patents law with some limitations and join NAFTA? President Carlos Menem decidod for the second option. There is a 1 May deadline to prepare a report on the countries with which there is an interest in starting negotiations. Based on that report the president will submit his final proposal to Congress on 1 July indicating the countries with which it is suggested that negotiations be started.

[Crivelli] Will Senate approval be enough to avoid a conflict, or will it be necessary to have the approval of both chambers?

[Granillo Ocampo] I don't believe it will be necessary to have the approval of both chambers. They know it involves different powers, and what must be shown is progress in the right direction.

[Crivelli] The Whitewater affair affecting President Clinton had wide press coverage in Argentina. What is its real impact on the American people?

[Granillo Ocampo] This affair is obviously overblown. The latest U.S. poll shows that 16 percent of the American people believe the president could have done something wrong, and 84 percent believe he did not. Also, there is nothing against Clinton. No accusation against him has been made, and he is not under investigation. The accusations published by the press are only possibilities, and have been greatly exaggerated.

[Crivelli] What is the objective of the summit of presidents to be held in December in Miami?

[Granillo Ocampo] The objective is to prepare a work agenda for the region, including issues that interest President Clinton and the Latin American presidents. In other words, the definition of regional policies is a multilateral issue; it will emerge from the talks among all

parties involved. The idea is also to emphasize the importance of Latin America for the Democratic administration. The meeting could also be interpreted as an equivalent to the Americas Initiative of the Republican administration. Argentina is an important spokesman for the region. We have been previously consulted, and helped create the idea, the agenda, and the site for the summit.

Menem Wants Narcotrafficking on Americas Summit Agenda

PY2303151894 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 22 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by Roman Lejtman]

[Text] U.S. Vice President Al Gore's blitz visit helped to confirm that Alberto Lestelle [programming and coordination secretary for the prevention of drug abuse and the antinarcotics struggle], Hugo Anzorreguy [National Intelligence Center, CNI, secretary], and [Interior Minister] Carlos Ruckauf will be traveling to Washington to meet with Robert Gelbard, U.S. assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters. The Argentine officials will assist the Bill Clinton administration in drafting the agenda for the so-called Summit of the Americas, to be held in Miami at the end of this year, which is to be attended by the presidents of the Americas to discuss issues pertaining to narcotrafficking, corruption, and terrorism, among others. The Argentine proposal, which is still being drafted, suggests an overall modification of penal regulations to prevent drug cartels from continuing to take advantage of legal gaps.

According to a communique issued last night by Lestelle's office, "at the suggestion of President Menem the antinarcotics struggle will be included on the agenda of the Summit of the Americas."

Menem wants to arrive in Miami with his homework done. He will therefore be launching an offensive at the legislative level to promulgate a series of laws based on measures that have been suggested by the United States. Menem believes that for the time being, no new scandals involving the government with ill begotten money will break up. In view of this he has decided to take advantage of this situation to push for passage four laws that he personally put on hold when the scandals broke involving the suitcases belonging to [Menem's sister-in-law] Amira [Yoma] and Monzer Al Kassar's citizenship.

During his visit to Mar del Plata, where he attended the ordinary meeting of the Inter-American Commission for the Control of Drug Abuse (CICAD), Gelbard gave his blessings to the four draft bills that Lestelle uncovered when he learned that Amira would be acquitted before the end of 1994. Three years after learning about Yoma's bizarre activities, Lestelle is supporting the following initiatives:

—Repentant: It authorizes magistrates to reduce the sentences of those drug traffickers who agree to cooperate with the courts. The implementation of this legal figure resulted in the dismantling of the gang to which Amira Yoma reportedly belonged. The government is not worried about Mario Caserta, the only one arrested under the Narcogate deal, because it is expected that Menem's former friend will be released before the approval of the repentant law.
—Informer: It lifts the penalty of those involved who supply information on the operations of drug cartels. It is one grade lower than repentant.
—Undercover Agent: It allows security force members to infiltrate drug cartels under the control of the courts.
—Cargoes Under Court Surveillance: It authorizes the continuation of drug operations to detain those responsible in the country where the drug is received.

Referring to the issues he discussed with Gore during an impromptu news conference, Menem said: "We discussed the scourges of narcotrafficking and terrorism, and the urgent need to undertake joint efforts to combat them." The president did not explain to the journalists what these "joint efforts" would be, but he did give an indication of the U.S. Government's aspirations, which go beyond the bills the Argentine Government has promised to promote in Congress.

—"Is there any possibility that the Armed Forces would participate in the counternarcotics struggle?" a journalist asked.
—"Not for the time being," answered Menem.
—"Why for the time being?"
—"Because that is the way it is: Not for the time being. A politician cannot make predictions. A politician talks about facts. I am talking about a fact: Not for the time being."

Defense Minister on U.S. 'Pressure' in Antidrug Efforts

PY2403030394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion today said the Armed Forces "categorically reject the possibility of joining the antinarcotic effort, for which they feel neither competent nor inclined."

The minister said the Armed Forces' non-engagement in the antinarcotics fight is due to the fact that "there are the necessary organizations to do it like the Border Police, the Argentine Coast Guard, and the Federal Police."

"There are countries in which the armed forces have to intervene because they do not have those security organizations," the minister said. "The Armed Forces categorically reject the possibility of joining antinarcotic efforts, for which they feel neither competent nor inclined."

In this regard, he assured that Argentina "does not have the problems of other countries, where drug traffickers make themselves the owners of land areas."

Concerning U.S. "pressure" for the military to join the antinarcotics fight, he said: "It is their problem to permanently insist on that fight, just as we insist that they should halt drug consumption among their population."

On the other hand, Camilion denied press reports that President Carlos Menem advocates the engagement of the military in domestic intelligence work.

The minister said the Armed Forces will only "extend logistical support" in case of domestic disturbances, like the one that occurred in December in Santiago del Estero, although he admitted that government members followed this specific case with "concern."

Camilion maintained that the government "has no intention" of making the Armed Forces join domestic intelligence work, adding that he received "neither formally nor informally, neither directly nor indirectly," any indication in this regard from President Menem or Presidency Secretary General Eduardo Bauza.

In statements to journalists after opening the academic year of the School of National Defense, which is subordinated to his portfolio, Camilion recalled that the Armed Forces are ruled by defense and internal security laws, and he categorically denied that the "amendment" of such laws is being studied.

He also categorically denied that the United States has made any reference to the possibility of the military taking action in case of an eventual social outbreak in Argentina.

He added he was not concerned about the stay in Chile of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, denying that a military power imbalance can be caused in the region in case of the possible purchase of military equipment by the Chilean Government.

"We would only be concerned about Chilean purchases of British weapons if Chile were insinuating the possibility of creating a power imbalance in the region; but the truth is that we have just arrived from Chile, and we have not seen anything that might cause concern in this regard," the minister added.

Concerning the statement by Thatcher in Chile, Camilion emphatically rejected the remarks by the former British prime minister that the Malvinas islands war facilitated the return of democracy in Argentina.

In this regard, he said: "Both Argentina and all of Latin America have a strongly democratic tradition."

Official Denies U.S. Pressure

PY2303155794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1912 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA)—Alberto Lestelle, secretary for the prevention of drug abuse, denied today that the U.S. Government has "imposed decisions or exerted pressure" in order that the "repentant" figure be included in Argentine legislation on narcotics. He also reiterated that the Armed Forces "will have no direct participation" in the struggle against drug trafficking.

Lestelle explained that the inclusion of the figure "repentant" in the legislation had already been foreseen "before the visit by U.S. Vice President Al Gore."

Lestelle said that the government sent the bill to Congress in 1992, and that in addition to the repentant figure it also included the role of the "informer," release on one's own recognizance, and the undercover agent.

He also denied that the "freezing" of the initiative coincided with the alleged link of Amira Yoma, former presidential protocol director, to the money laundering case known as Narcogate.

In this regard Lestelle said: "The question should be asked of the members of the Penal and Drug Addiction Committees, who never debated the issue."

Lestelle added that 30 days ago the government submitted to the legislature a bill modifying the previous one, and that coordination would be done with the respective committees on the possibility of drawing up a single bill so that "it can be approved as soon as possible."

Regarding the possibility of including the Armed Forces in the struggle against drug trafficking, Lestelle said to Radio Continental that the government "has decided that they will have no direct participation."

Lestelle explained, however, that "logically, a security organization could ask the Armed Forces for radar support if, for example, it is known that an airplane is about to take off from a neighboring country."

He added: "In any case, once the airplane lands in Argentine territory the operation will continue, but will be under the jurisdiction of the National Border Police." He confirmed that the participation of the Armed Forces in intelligence is "absolutely ruled out."

Senators 'Do Not Believe' U.S. Threat Over Patents Law

PY2303162694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (NA)—The draft bill on industrial property—correctly called invention and utility models patents [patentes de invencion y modelos de utilidad]—that the PEN [national executive branch] submitted to Congress remains virtually paralyzed, in

view of the reticence of legislators, who do not believe the U.S. threat to sanction Argentina by denying it entry to NAFTA if the draft bill is not approved before 30 April.

This was stated yesterday by legislative sources, who explained that there is no concrete information on the positions of the members of the Health, Science and Technology, Commerce, Industry, Penal Affairs, or Prison System Commissions in the Senate, who are the ones who have to discuss the draft bill.

Carlos Menem's initiative responds directly to the requirements of the government of Bill Clinton, according to the sources, which on the other hand stated that when the issue is formally debated by these commissions "there will be some who will point out at least five points of the draft bill that are harmful to Argentine interests."

More than one of the legislative branch sources noted that between the U.S. position and GATT requirements there is a broad range of possibilities for reaching an "adequate" Argentine patents law that would satisfy all sectors, and would even settle the "infighting" within the national government over precisely this subject.

According to speculation within the legislative branch, if the draft bill has the approval of almost all the senators—although amended—it might then meet serious obstacles in the Chamber of Deputies.

In view of the strong pressure exerted by the United States regarding this future law, the senators wonder what joining NAFTA will mean to Argentina and "what benefits and difficulties it will hold for the country."

Although it is true that Argentina has a "good relationship with the United States," it is also believed that "there is no need to join NAFTA" to maintain this relationship, as "it is not very clear what the benefits would be" if Argentina is chosen to become a member of this commercial bloc other than to "encourage confidence and the flow of capital."

While these doubts exist, the Justicialist Party bloc of national senators has still not explained its stance regarding the government's draft bill, and it is believed it will not do so until after 10 April, because the great majority have decided to remain in their respective provinces to carry out their electoral campaign for the election of members of the Constituent Assembly.

The senators' greatest specific objections to the PEN draft bill concern the shortening of the duration of 20 year patents, as it creates monopolies and because the speed of innovations today makes it inadvisable, according to the models of other countries that are influencing several legislators.

Some senators are studying the possibility of "shortening the transition period for pharmaceutical products" or of establishing an extension for the patents for a period that could be three years, "under the condition that national laboratories be granted a license."

They also propose "restricting the exploitation concept to local production, as is established in Spanish law," and allowing importation only in exceptional cases. This is a confusion that exists in the production of and trading in products from foreign laboratories.

Another point under discussion is that referring to the possibility of allowing importation with the requirement of paying "royalties" in order to encourage competition and avoid the establishment of monopolies.

Some legislators want to "avoid a retroactive patent and eliminate what is labeled 'priority,' and only grant patents for new products."

Finally they point out the need to establish "explicit mechanisms to encourage investigation and development."

Several consulted senators agreed that Argentine industry is ready to investigate, market, and pull out of its isolation, and "begin to compete based on a technological plan and the country's industrial know-how, as well as defend the consumer."

Provinces Sign Pact for Constituent Assembly Sessions

PY2303234494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2155 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] La Rioja, 18 Mar (NA)—The Provinces of Santa Fe and Entre Rios today reached agreement and settled their veiled disputes over the functioning of the Constituent Assembly. Governors Carlos Reutemann and Mario Moine signed a document outlining the guidelines for the assembly which will modify the Constitution.

The ceremony for signing of the document—initially scheduled for yesterday, but postponed because it was impossible for Reutemann and Moine to travel to this city—was held at the provincial Government House. The ceremony was also attended by La Rioja Governor Bernabe Arnaudo and Acting Senate President Eduardo Menem.

Also present were Parana Mayor Julio Solanas, Santa Fe Mayor Jorge Obeid, and Domingo Carlos Trulla, the chairman of the Supreme Court of La Rioja.

The text signed by Reutemann and Moine has eight points, the first of which states that the agreement seeks to "formulate a proposal for the distribution of the functions of the Constituent Assembly between the two cities."

The agreement states that Parana will handle the inauguration of the Assembly, the special sessions, and the closing session—for which the Entre Rios provincial Government will provide the Tres de Febrero Municipal Theater.

Meanwhile, Santa Fe will host the Constituent Assembly plenary sessions and the board of Assembly authorities and secreariats, for which the Reutemann's Santa Fe administration will provide "the esplanade of the Litoral University and the facilities which may be needed for authorities, secretariats, and assistants."

The document also establishes that advisory committees will be housed "in places established by the Constituent Assembly, seeking an equitable distribution between the cities of Santa Fe and Parana." The new Constitution will be approved and sworn-in at San Jose Palace, in Concepcion del Uruguay, as previously announced.

Arnaudo said that because the agreement was signed in this capital "it will be recorded in La Rioja's history," adding that "the province is once again the stage for major national events."

"We are committed to this process of change, promoting a national consensus for recreating the Constitution to match the new model of Argentina," Arnaudo said, emphasizing the importance of "introducing needed changes at this time of economic and social transformation."

Moine highlighted the significance of the agreement "at this historic moment." He said: "Never before have the majority parties—which represent the will of 80 or 85 percent of Argentines—reached a consensus for this reform that is so necessary."

Moine emphasized that the reform "does not relate to the present, but with the future," adding that reforming the Constitution is a "contribution to the common good." He promised to "do his best to fulfill the objectives outlined in this document."

Reutemann thanked Senator Eduardo Menem "for everything he did toward a successful outcome," noting that "when Sante Fe and Entre Rios were chosen to house the event, everyone began to speculate about the difficulties that would arise between the governors."

Finally, Senator Menem—the first cadidate for Constituent Assembly member for the Justicialist Party of La Rioja—said: "Many times, those who play a role do not realize they are making history," adding that "many events in Argentina and in the world were achieved by men who were unaware they were making history."

"We know that, with the constitutional reform, we are rewriting history, a history that stems from the past and projects itself into the future," Menem said, noting that the election of Santa Fe and Parana as the seats of the Constituent Assembly "acknowledges their major role in organizing the country."

Bolivia

Former Narcotics Chief Faustino Rico Arrested

PY2303203094 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Colonel Faustino Rico Toro was arrested by the Special Antinarcotics Force [FELCN] in Cochabamba last night. Rico Toro was one of former dictator Luis Garcia Meza's close assistants. But he was not tried with the former dictator.

He was appointed FELCN commander during Jaime Paz Zamora's government, although he had to resign a few hours later after observations made by the U.S. Embassy, which had suspicions of Rico Toro's links to drug traffickers.

His arrest occurred between 2100 and 2300 last night. He is being detained at a FELCN jail in Cochabamba. There is evidence against him. He is being questioned, FELCN Deputy Commander General Rogelio Vargas said.

Vargas added that he did not know whether Rico Toro will be transferred to La Paz. This is something that must be decided by prosecutors, he said. In another 48 hours we will know if the Cochabamba prosecutor's office will bring charges of drug trafficking against Faustino Rico Toro. If so, he will spend a few years in prison.

Brazil

Political, Military Figures Comment on Wage Increase

Supreme Court, President View Increase

PY2203144194 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Federal Supreme Court [STF] Chairman Luiz Octavio Gallotti has released two notes to the media about the self-authorized wage increases for the Judicial Branch.

In one note the STF answers criticisms that followed the wage increase. The other note states that he is surprised at the government argument that it does not have funds to pay the increase because the funds requested for the increase are already deposited in the Bank of Brazil.

STF Chairman Gallotti yesterday released two notes to the media. One note rebuffs criticisms of the Judicial Branch, and the other states that the Judicial Branch payroll is being processed normally.

The STF chairman states that he does not understand the government allegation that there are not enough funds for the increase because the funds were deposited on 18 March in the STF account in the Bank of Brazil. Gallotti said the deposit of funds is compatible with the administrative decision by the STF justices on 10 March.

According to figures released by the STF, the deposit of 1.75 million URV's was more than was requested. The

STF president said the justices have correctly implemented the provisional measure creating the URV, respecting the Constitution.

Gallotti did not want to comment on a possible revision of the provisional measure or on the salary cuts as announced by the government. The STF chairman says he does not make decisions on his own and the STF will make a statement only when it receives an official communique from the government.

Regarding criticism of the Judicial Branch, the STF president acknowledges the right to disagree but he says the criticisms were made without moderation. He added that if there is disagreement among the government branches, he will not encourage it.

Meanwhile, President Itamar Franco met with Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and confirmed that the government will not pay the wage increase for the Judicial Branch. The president has ordered the Bank of Brazil to discount the wage increase deposited for judicial and legislative branch payrolls.

President Itamar Franco again guaranteed yesterday that the wage increase authorized by the STF is illegal and that the government will not pay anything that goes against the law. After meeting in Planalto Palace with the finance minister he authorized the release of an internal Finance Ministry provision ordering the Bank of Brazil to discount the 10.9-percent wage increase from the payroll of the Judicial and Legislative Branches.

[Begin Franco recording] I said and reassert: The government will not pay anything outsid the law. We consider the STF is not complying with the law established by the provisional measure. Therefore we will only authorize the funds we think the STF should receive. [end recording]

Military Would Support Franco in 'Self Coup'

PY2303200694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1828 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] The Brazilian military commanders made it understood to President Itamar Franco that they are willing to support him in an hypothetical "self coup" given the serious institutional crisis that exists between the government, the Federal Supreme Court [STF], and Congress.

The newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO today reported that in the face of the indignation caused by the salary privileges the STF granted to itself and a similar attempt by members of Congress, the eight military ministers suggested President Franco carry out a coup.

During a meeting held five days ago with Franco in Planalto Palace, the commanders found President Franco "receptive" to their criticisms and demands to approve a salary equity law for the three government branches.

Following the meeting, which was attended by some civilian ministers, President Itamar Franco officially expressed his discontent with the decision made by the STF and Congress, and he then refused to grant them the wage increase, calculated to be 10.9 percent and possibly amounting to more than $1.25 billion, Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said today.

When EFE asked a Government House spokesman about the "self coup" idea, he answered: "No comment."

The military chiefs sent their message in different ways. The newspaper states that Strategic Affairs Secretary Admiral Cesar Flores made the strongest proposals like closing down Congress, the replacement of the STF justices, and earlier elections—except for president.

As a result of this crisis, President Franco, a 63-year-old civil engineer, has come out stronger in his position and, according to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, he has become a chief of state "under military tutelage with a discredited Congress and a Judicial Branch that insists on not bending."

Franco said the STF decision "is outside the law," which brought him applause from the Armed Forces, opposition leader and presidential candidate Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva, several governors, and the public in general.

Franco, whose popularity has dropped constantly, was supported by 85 percent of the people surveyed by the Instituto Soma polling company.

"Franco has proceeded correctly. I do not know if he has followed military instructions but the Judicial Branch has committed a shameful action instead of creating justice," said Da Silva, who is the favorite candidate for the 3 October elections according to polls.

The STF justices and Judicial Branch employees today received their salaries without the 10.9-percent increase implemented to compensate for an alleged salary loss as a result of the salary conversion into the Real Value Unit (URV) based on the dollar exchange rate and the plan implemented to curb inflation, which amounts to 40 percent per month.

With the purpose of appeasing the spirits, the Senate has rejected a decision by the Chamber of Deputies to follow the STF's example and increase the salaries of members of Congress and Legislative Branch employees by 23.5 percent.

The STF's discredit before the public and which Congress has been suffering for several months has encouraged several military chiefs to bring up the constitutional precept that allows the president to declare a state of national defense and they recalled the atmosphere preceding the 1964 military coup.

"The troops are not indifferent to the people's demands. Thirty years ago we attended to a demand by the people for ideological reasons, and now it may be for reasons of

'privileges' [the Judicial and Legislative Branches' salaries]," said Federal Police chief and retired Army Colonel Wilson Romao.

Navy Minister Ivan Serpa criticized the justices and members of Congress, but he also rejected any eventual coup attempt by military units. "If I find someone defending that position I will either arrest or discharge him," Serpa said.

State of Defense Declaration Ruled Out

PY2403030794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2135 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Brasilia, 23 Mar (EFE)—Brazilian Congress President Humberto Lucena, a centrist, today ruled out a possible declaration of a state of national defense, restricting constitutional guarantees, over a confrontation pitting the Executive Branch and the Armed Forces against the Legislative Branch and the Federal Supreme Court [STF].

Lucena indicated that the rumors that circulated today in the federal legislative chambers have been prompted "by the creative imagination of pessimists." In his opinion, the institutional crisis must be overcome without altering the independence and harmony among the three branches of government.

Official sources reported that at Planalto Palace, the government's seat, Brazilian President Itamar Franco discussed the political situation today with conservative Deputy Inocencio de Oliveira, the Chamber of Deputies president, and the official spokesmen in Congress.

Judicial Branch sources said Attorney General Aristides Junqueira has become a mediator between the government and the STF and has studied a formula with Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso to overcome the crisis.

Junqueira expressed his disagreement with the fact that a controversy on salaries and salary equity among the three branches of government had jeopardized institutional stability.

The STF decided on a 10.9-percent salary increase for court justices and employees with the goal of compensating for possible losses in the conversion of real cruzeiros into the Real Value Unit (URV) system, using dollars and the future Brazilian currency as a reference.

Franco and his finance minister denied the increase's payment to the STF because they believe it violates the presidential decree implementing the URV system.

In light of the unilateral approval of the increases for the STF and Congress, which today preferred to abolish a similar increase, military leaders have taken the dust off a constitutional provision authorizing the president to declare a state of national defense.

According to various newspapers, after implementing this measure, the government and the Armed Forces would move up the congressional elections, scheduled for 3 October, even though Franco would complete his term that ends on 1 January 1995.

Franco's strong position toward the STF is supported by the Armed Forces, which often complain about their low salaries, and the public.

With the declaration of a state of national defense, the right to assembly, secrecy of the postal service and communications, occupation of public property, and services are restricted and people may be arrested without a court order, even though their arrest must be immediately reported to a judge.

Although it goes into effect with the president's signature, a state of defense must be confirmed within a 10-day period by Congress and, if rejected, it expires immediately.

If a state of defense is confirmed by Congress, it will be effective for one month and may be extended for another month.

Cardoso Says Tax Increase Needed

PY2403014094 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Report by Claudia Moreira from Brasilia]

[Text] The finance minister said taxes will have to be increased to pay for the salary readjustment for members of the Legislative and Judicial Branches. Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said he cannot accept converting salaries into Real Value Units on the 25th of each month, as the Federal Supreme Court wants. If the conversion is done on that day, the government will have losses totalling $1.25 billion. According to the finance minister, the government will have to create more taxes to cover these losses:

[Begin recording] I am giving them the results. If they want to change the conversion date to the 25th, they will have to collect taxes equivalent to $1.25 billion. It will be very clear in the eyes of the people that everyone is paying for this salary increase. Calculations, however, will have to be made. It will not be 5 percent over a small portion, because the minister will not agree to that. This readjustment cannot be granted only to a small sector and not to everyone. The federal administration minister does not agree to that, the president of the Republic does not agree to that, and I do not either. The famous discussion about the Treasury, the budget, and about these valuable people who work hard... [pauses] Some people are even saying that I am adopting two different concepts, but I am not. [Word indistinct] and they are right. The administration minister comes to me and says: If we agree to increase their salaries, we must increase everyone's salaries. What do you think of that? Therefore, we cannot increase anyone's salary. It is the same thing. Unless we adopt a new procedure in Brazil and begin saying things clearly and openly, nothing will work

out. If we agree to change the date from the 30th to the 25th, we will have to do it for everyone. If we do it for everyone, someone will have to get me the $1.25 billion. [end recording]

Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso also commented on the possibility of running in the presidential elections. He is analyzing whether it is really the time to leave the government, particularly now that there is such confusion among the three government branches.

Senate Backs Franco Veto

PY2303235094 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Report by Beth Velloso]

[Text] The Senate voted against increasing deputies' salaries. Meeting the request of Chamber of Deputies President Inocencio Oliveira and other leaders, the federal Senate buried the deputies' dream of increasing their salaries: 54 senators voted yes, two voted no, and four abstained from voting on the decision to maintain President Itamar Franco's veto of plans to make congressmen's salaries equal to the highest ones paid to Federal Supreme Court members.

Based on the Constitution, Deputy Paulo Delgado (Workers Party) requested that the 16 March session be annulled. During this session, the congressmen voted against three other vetoes of salary increases for public employees working for state-owned companies and other official organizations and the government decision to establish ministers of state's salaries as the ceiling for all public employees' salaries. Delgado made a motion to the Chamber of Deputies Constitution and Justice Committee calling for annulment of the session and was supported by Chamber of Deputies President Oliveira.

[Begin recording] [Delgado] We deem [words indistinct] ceiling the fastest possible to be able to take the issue to a plenary session and thus annul that day's voting on these vetoes.

[Unidentified reporter] Therefore, there will be no immediate salary increase.

[Delgado] None at all. I believe this is an extremely difficult moment in which the country is calling for austerity in all sectors of society and we must set an example. [end recording]

If the Constitution and Justice Committee decides to annul the latest congressional session, a plenary session will still have to be held but at least the possibility of increasing the salaries of deputies and senators by 23.5 percent has been entirely dismissed.

In a live report from Congress, reporter Alessandra Anselmo has more news:

[Begin relay] Chamber of Deputies President Inocencio Oliveira, who also attended the Planalto Palace meeting seeking to solve the crisis among the three government branches, reported that regarding the vetoes of salary equalization—which were voted against by Congress—it has been decided that the government will send Congress another draft bill establishing the ceiling for public employees' salaries at 90 percent of the salary of a minister of state. Thus, the problem caused by the presidential veto of the high salaries paid by state-owned companies, which had been voted against by the national Congress, has been solved. [end relay]

Possible Salary Deterioration Protested

PY2403010794 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Here is a report on the national day of protest against possible salary deterioration caused by the economic plan. The strike called by the labor centrals ended up as a set of sporadic demonstrations.

The Sao Paulo subway began operating this morning at 0700, two hours later than normal. A demonstration by bus drivers and ticket collectors caused a traffic jam on Celso Garcia Avenue, one of the most important avenues in eastern Sao Paulo.

In downtown Sao Paulo, retired bank employees protested ironically, asking for donations for the deputies who increased their own salaries.

Sao Paulo industrial belt metalworkers blocked the Anchieta highway, which joins Sao Paulo and the sea coast, in protest against the Volkswagen truck factory.

In the afternoon, bank employees, chemical industry workers, and taxi drivers staged a motorade along Paulista Avenue.

In Brasilia, public servants march along the ministries' esplanade. The police guard was reinforced. The march ended with a demonstration in front of the Finance Ministry building.

Galotti Criticizes 'Improper Government Meddling'

PY2403004994 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Supreme Federal Court President Otavio Galotti criticized what he called improper government meddling in Judicial Branch accounts.

When Supreme Court justices arrived for today's plenary session, they declined to talk about salaries. But before the session they held a meeting under the protection of guards. This delayed the beginning of the session for almost an hour.

During the session, Galotti again read a note released on 21 March saying the Supreme Court rejects the crude and unacceptable insults against the court and its members.

Galotti once again explained that salaries were converted to the URV [Real Value Unit] on 20 March because judicial branch members are paid their salaries on the 20th of each month. According to him, this measure caused no salary increase and served only to prevent losses from the conversion.

Galotti harshly criticized the government decision to cancel the 10.9 percent adjustment of the salaries paid today.

Attorney General Aristides Junqueira, who is attending the Supreme Court meetings, said after the session that the conversion is a 10-percent problem that is jeopardizing Brazilian institutions, and that this is unbelievable.

Junqueira added that the solution is to modify the law and, to this end, representatives of the three branches of government are negotiating.

Senate Charges Government Fomenting Crisis

PY2403002694 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] The Senate released a communique on 22 March charging that the government is using the media to foment the crisis among the three branches of government, a crisis prompted by the conversion of salaries into the URV [Real Value Unit] system on 20 March. According to the communique, the state of democratic law does not allow a confrontation among the branches of the Republic "under penalty of an institutional crisis of serious internal and external consequences."

In the following paragraph, the Senate notes that it is appropriate for the press to criticize or praise the actions of the three branches of government and correct possible mistakes. The communique says: "It is not correct, however, to use the media to foment animosities that may compromise the institutions."

The communique also recalls that Congress did not fail to support the government, and approved the economic program. The communique, signed by Congress President Senator Humberto Lucena (PMDB-PB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Paraiba State]), notes that nothing will justify a diversion from championing the "system of responsible rights, our country's supreme legal and social good, rights that are actually based on respect for independence and harmony among the three branches of government." The communique concludes with a call for common sense to prevail, with negotiations by the president of the Republic, "who, under a presidential system of government, is entitled to conduct our country's political-administrative process."

General Says 'Army Cannot Retreat' in Crisis

PY2303210994 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by Sandra Brasil and Silvia Faria]

[Text] Brasilia—In the military commanders' opinion, the impasse among the three branches of government will only be politically overcome if the Federal Supreme Court (STF) retracts its decision to increase the URV [Real Value Unit]-adjusted salaries or if their members ask for their removal, involving resignation or retirement. Unyielding in their expectations of abolishment of the salary increases, the military leaders already have, among various alternatives for the possible outcome of the current crisis, a declaration of a state of national defense as a strategy to move up the call for general elections.

A general who has free access within the Armed Forces and Planalto Palace told O GLOBO on 22 March: "As (Army) Minister Zenildo de Lucena has told President Itamar Franco, it is a moral problem. The Army cannot retreat."

The military leaders already have proposals for constitutional alternatives that they would raise after the declaration of a state of defense, moving up the elections. They are betting on Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's advantage since he would attract all anti-Lula (PT—Workers Party—presidential candidate Luis Inacio Lula da Silva) forces. The alternatives and their possible outcome will be discussed during an Army High Command meeting scheduled for 24 and 25 March in the Brasilia headquarters.

A military minister said: "The military has the constitutional duty of guaranteeing order and harmony among the branches of government. This harmony has been broken with a decision made by the Judicial and Legislative Branches to grant themselves salary increases."

According to the assessment made by the military commanders, there is no possible solution to the impasse among the branches of government without producing trauma for the administration. The military commanders do not consider the possibility that the STF might retract and abolish the 10.9-percent increase granted to the Judicial Branch because this "would involve pleading guilty." The military commanders caution that even if Franco eventually decides to make the Executive Branch's position more flexible, a retreat would not be possible because it would demoralize the president of the Republic.

The minister noted: "The president has taken an irrevocable stance. If he retreats, it would weaken the government."

The president's irrevocable stance, expressed in a note released after a tense ministerial meeting on 18 March, was challenged by some of the ministers present at the meeting. In the opinion of these ministers, the note should leave some room for possible negotiation with the STF. It was Franco himself, encouraged by the military leaders' indignation over the salary increases for the Legislative and Judicial Branches, who decided on the communique's radical overtones.

The source said: "He also could not run the risk of calling for negotiations and being defeated."

Among the options reviewed by the military leaders, there was the possibility of appealing to the STF itself for its decision because the salary increase was granted at the administrative level. The military leaders, however, thought there was a risk of the Executive Branch being defeated since the action's judgment would be passed by the same (STF) justices who unanimously approved the salary increase.

Another military adviser said: "The judges are making an attempt to transform the criticism of the decision that they made into criticism of the supreme institution. It is like attempting to involve the Armed Forces in criticism of a decision eventually made by the military ministers."

The military leaders believe they have society's support for an eventual intervention if there is no political solution to the impasse. And, from any angle, the solution depends on the STF's retreat alone. Concerning the Legislative Branch, the military ministers' expectations are that the decision to increase the salaries will be abolished.

The general noted: "The military never anticipates what society wants. Those who dared to do this failed."

With much caution, the possibility of an intervention is under discussion in the barracks. It is not compared, however, with the 1964 military coup that deposed President Joao Goulart and installed an ad hoc government in our country. The intervention currently under review would reportedly be aimed at restoring harmony among the branches of government. In the military leaders' interpretation, this represents removing the salary increases for the Judicial and Legislative Branches.

A late attempt at negotiating with the Executive Branch was unsuccessfully made on the afternoon of 21 March when Edson Vidigal, a Superior Court of Justice (STJ) justice (appointed by former President Jose Sarney), played the role of a Judicial Branch envoy to convince the Executive Branch of the lawfulness of the STF's decision.

A military source explained: "This mission might have succeeded in initiating negotiations if it had been carried out last week before the government's and the STF's radicalization. Now it is too late."

The military ministers still are expecting an unmistakable position by Minister Fernando Henrique, whom they guaranteed their support for the economic program's approval.

A usual Army interlocutor claimed: "The minister spent five days out of town and still has not taken a clear position."

Among the Armed Forces, the Navy is the most indignant over the decisions made by the Legislative and Judicial Branches. Despite being more cautious, the Army is no less indignant. Minister Zenildo de Lucena often has guaranteed that the democratic system is not in jeopardy and that any solution will be determined by the Constitution.

Military's Increased Influence Viewed

PY2303204894 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 94 p A4

[Article by Joao Bosco Rabello: "The Ghost of the Coup"]

[Text] An irreversible feature of the crisis caused by the salary issue is the return of the military to the political fore, and with popular support. An 18 March meeting at Planalto Palace was the most sensitive moment on the fragile path of return to democracy, which began when a civilian movement elected Tancredo Neves. The military leadership's reaction to the Judicial Branch and Congress found that Itamar Franco was absolutely willing to play the role of Juan Bordaberry (a former Uruguayan president who in 1973 agreed to military tutelage and was finally ousted in 1976). The military reaction also found that there are no leaders capable of putting out the fire. From now on, government decisions will need military endorsement.

The political interpretation that is being made—though in a restrained, discreet manner—is that since 18 March, the independence of the branches of government has been put to the test, and that a sudden expression of military support has transformed an unconcerned president into a strong chief of state. Consequently, from a formal viewpoint, there is a president under military tutelage, a Congress with impaired morale, and a judicial branch that is resisting in order to avoid kneeling down.

The 18 March meeting was dramatic. Civilian ministers with a seat in Congress were excluded under the pretext of suspicion: The agenda included salaries and, therefore, it was a matter of personal, direct interest to Congress (as if the matter were not also of personal interest to the military). Civilian Household Chief Henrique Hargreaves and General Secretary Mauro Durante began the meeting. The others, only four, arrived later, after pressing calls.

The military chiefs gave their message in various forms. Admiral Mario Flores (head of the Strategic Affairs Secretariat—SAE) outlined the more radical proposals, like closing Congress, replacing STF [Supreme Federal Court] judges, and calling for general elections (not for president). Flores mentioned these proposals as information. If the president had been receptive to these ideas, they would have turned into a formal proposal; if not, they were reports conveyed by the appropriate official.

For the military, the episode is a history of treason that began in the negotiations phase before the economic program's issuance. The harshest crisis of this episode occurred on 18 March at Planalto Palace, and the

outcome is still unknown. It is not merely a salary crisis but, above all, a crisis that has uncovered the lack of maturity of the current members of the three branches for the full exercise of democracy, and this breach provides room for adventures.

The military leadership attempted to convince the economic leadership to convert its salaries on the basis of the URV [Real Value Unit] in force on 15 March. This request was denied after Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso gave assurances that the conversion date for all salaries would be the 30th. In giving that answer to the military, Cardoso was leaning on a previous agreement with the STF, to which the provisional measure enforcing the economic plan was submitted, having been encouraged to go ahead.

Information that helped break the resistance of the military, which wanted to move the conversion of their salaries to an earlier date, was the compulsory salary equity embedded in the economic plan's provisional measure based on the mechanism of dates: By setting the 30th as the date for conversion of all salaries, the Executive Branch had in practice increased the duration of the work month for the two other branches by 10 days—which traditionally pay their salaries on the 20th—thus enforcing salary equity. The Judicial Branch killed that "egg of Columbus" the economic team believed it had found.

After learning that the STF and Congress made the conversion on the 20th, the military felt it should not abide by any previous commitment. They pressured President Itamar Franco, in the absence of Minister Cardoso, to a forceful position, rejecting the claim by STF Chairman Otavio Galotti that he would enforce the Constitution. Galotti availed himself of Article 168 of the Constitution, but this article only sets forth that transfer of executive branch funds must be done before the 20th, without specifying whether salaries must be paid on that date.

Navy Minister Says Situation 'Entirely Normal'

PY2303202794 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 94 p A4

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—Navy Minister Ivan Serpa on 22 March called immoral the salary increase the Judicial and Legislative Branches have granted themselves. The minister said: "It might be legal but it is not moral." He made these comments during the ceremony held to say farewell to the ensigns who left on a trip by the "Brasil" school-vessel. He included the military among a large number of people who "do not accept a society in which a group of people is always favored." He added, however, that there will be no rebellion in the barracks.

In Serpa's opinion, the government should not give in to pressure exerted by Congress and the Federal Supreme Court (STF). "If we believe that the Executive Branch must meet all requests, there will be no more independence among the powers and the Executive Branch will be subdued by the other powers." He refused, however, to suggest a solution to the crisis. "I do not want to increase the number of rumors," he said. "I want to be the fireman and not the arsonist."

Minister Serpa made a point of emphasizing that the note released by Planalto Palace on 18 March should be interpreted "only as criticism" of Congress and the STF. He admitted that the military is dissatisfied with low salaries, but asserted that the atmosphere in the barracks is "entirely normal." He also said he does not agree with the position of the Guararapes Group, which comprises retired officers who, in addition to requesting that Congress be closed, spoke in favor of holding elections before the scheduled date. "I do not agree with them," he asserted. "This is not the moment to close anything." He supported the group's right to publicly express its members' opinions, but asserted that their opinion does not reflect the ideas of all retired officers.

Chile

Foreign Minister Endorses Costa Rica in OAS Election

PY2403003294 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Report by Carmen Castro at the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Commenting on the Rio Group foreign ministers' meeting in Brazil, Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa stated that the Chilean Government is very willing to maintain good relations with Bolivia but that it is not opportune to deal with the outlet to the sea.

Figueroa met the Bolivian foreign minister, who considered the need for an outlet to the sea an important matter for his government. The Chilean reply was that it was not timely to discuss the issue. Figueroa, however, said there is goodwill toward Bolivia:

[Begin recording] Chile wishes to maintain very good relations with Bolivia, seek ways to reach an understanding on political, economic, cultural, tourism, investment, and infrastructure developments, and find peaceful solutions to border issues. That is, we can agree on many possibilities in our relations with Bolivia. [end recording]

Concerning the upcoming vote for the OAS secretary general scheduled to take place in Washington this week, Figueroa pointed out that the Chilean Government fully supports the Costa Rican candidate, former Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus. He said Chile honors its commitments, and recalled that in 1992 President Aylwin and [Costa Rican President] Calderon made this commitment.

Figueroa also reported that the Rio Group member countries are arranging a future meeting with the EU where Chile will propose a new political relation between Europe and Latin America.

President Frei Interviewed on Policies

PY2303143394 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 16 Mar 94 pp 7-9

[Interview with Chilean President Eduardo Frei by correspondent William Waack in Santiago; date not given]

[Text] [Waack] Chileans agree on three points: continuation of the economic model, political democracy, and the search for social justice. Is your only task now to fulfill those points?

[Frei] My first task is to continue this process. For the first time since 1915 there is continuity in the government in Chile. This is a sign of stability and support for the previous administration. By supporting my presidential candidacy for the coalition (the coalition of government parties made up mainly of Christian Democrats and Socialists) Chileans were judging an administration. The people judge a successful administration by electing a new government from the same group. This is very important for Chile, and defines my task. That is why I have been saying that my proposal is continuity and change at the same time. Continuity because we will maintain the economic policy, with the necessary corrections to fight poverty, concentrating on political stability.

[Waack] What will the changes be?

[Frei] This government has a different task. The Aylwin administration replaced an authoritarian regime that had lasted 17 years. My program wants to solve the concrete problems of people. That is my emphasis.

[Waack] You have been talking about modernizing the Chilean Government, and you just asked your close aides to declare their assets, which will be compared with the assets when they leave the government. Are you concerned with corruption and the ineffectiveness of the state system?

[Frei] One of the main problems we have in Latin America is the gigantic state apparatus. In a modern democracy we want to further delegate decisions to the people. They should resolve their problems by themselves, while the state is opening more room and creating more opportunities. This is how the issues of honesty and administrative ability are handled. Fortunately in Chile, as a nation, we did not have generalized corruption in the public administration. But there are some signs of that evil. We are part of the world, and this is a world problem. From the first day, however, I would like to make clear signs of administrative honesty. Politics become discredited especially when the sense of ethics is lost. There are other basic values to be defended: the family's sense of public service, and the sense of our national identity. We don't want to build a society based only on consumerism.

[Waack] Do you believe Chile is becoming the first South American country to no longer be considered underdeveloped?

[Frei] That would be a great aspiration. We are making a great effort, but there is still a long way to go. World experience shows that the countries capable of defeating underdevelopment did so by maintaining long-term economic and social policies for more than 20 years. And this is what we are doing here in Chile.

[Waack] Is Chile defeating the vicious circle of poverty and misery?

[Frei] We are on the way, but we have not yet succeeded. When Aylwin was inaugurated, about 40 percent of the population lived in poverty and misery. Now the figure is about 27 percent. Continuing the policy we are carrying out, I believe we will eliminate extreme misery within six years.

[Waack] Are you saying that Chile will be the first Latin American country to fully pay its social debt?

[Frei] We are working on it. My government's priority is to eliminate poverty. This purpose will be clearly noticeable in the decisions I will make during the first months of my administration. The country will feel the difference. But it is not only a government task, it is the entire country's responsibility. We will invite entrepreneurs, workers, and public servants to participate. It is a national goal much more than a government objective.

[Waack] Chile wants to join NAFTA. Are you concerned about Brazil's economic instability and the fact that Brazil is Latin America's largest country?

[Frei] Chile is prepared to negotiate a free trade agreement with the United States and to participate in NAFTA because the country has made a very great effort to correct all its macroeconomic indicators. We should understand that if we fail to achieve Latin American integration soon, we will not be able to compete with larger world conglomerates such as the Pacific group, the European Union, or NAFTA. We, Latin Americans, must unite in order to be able to compete with these conglomerates. We must align our economies, and in this respect I think Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's economic policies are very positive. We must converge our monetary, fiscal, customs, and ecological policies. That will permit us to advance in the integration process.

[Waack] Are you thinking of some kind of understanding or concrete steps to promote this type of integration with Brazil?

[Frei] I have been following Brazilian political situation, particularly Cardoso's career. I know him personally. Fernando Henrique lived in Chile for four years. He made many friends. He is a very respected political figure. This is why I care about his economic stabilization plan so much, and I wish him all the luck possible.

[Waack] Did you know that Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso is considered a virtual candidate for the presidency?

[Frei] I am perfectly aware of that. It would be very good if he becomes president. Fernando Henrique is a man of great vision. We could easily understand one other on a number of matters. An understanding with him would be very easy.

[Waack] Many people say that the person who is truly responsible for Chile's present stability is General Augusto Pinochet. Do you agree with that?

[Frei] I think we must depersonalize those aspects. The whole of society participated in the effort. It was an effort made by political parties and workers who understood what was important and relevant at certain moments. It was also an effort on the part of entrepreneurs, who trusted in the country and invested there. Last year we had the highest rate of savings and investment. The Armed Forces also participated in this effort. They understood that once a democratic government was elected they had to return to their barracks and to their constitutional role. All actors, therefore, contributed to the stability we enjoy today.

[Waack] Gen. Pinochet will continue to be a very important figure in Chile, just as he has been during the past 21 years. Will you be able to ignore him?

[Frei] I think... [pauses] I mean, it is not a matter of ignoring anyone. It is a matter of respecting the reality in which we are living. Our political situation is characterized by respect for the institutional system and the legal path we chose in 1989 to discuss democratic questions. We are changing the system from within. One of our tasks is to recover the president's prerogative to name the Armed Forces commander, who according to the Constitution currently in effect will stay in his post until 1977. The president must have the responsibility to appoint Armed Forces commanders, which has always been the case in Chile in the past—just as it is established in all democratic countries in the world. This does not depend on individuals, preferences, or personal opinion. It is a matter of principle.

[Waack] Is your first political goal aimed at amending the Constitution to allow you to appoint the military commanders, and change the system for the election of members of the Constitutional Court and the organization of the National Security Council?

[Frei] I do not think we have different goals. The main, and most important, objective is that right from the beginning we are going to focus our attention on the peoples' real problems, that is, the crisis affecting the education and health systems. We are going to tackle the poverty problem that still affects a large percentage of our population. The people must feel that we, politicians, are concerned about their daily problems. Simultaneously there is a pending constitutional issue to be solved in Chile. It refers to the mechanism used to appoint the members of the Constitutional Court and the National Security Council (the current method favors the opposition). I do not think the current method to appoint the Constitutional Court members is democratic. I am not against a court of this type, which exists in every country. The problem is the method used to elect the Constitutional Court. The same goes for the National Security Council that was elected under the previous administration.

[Waack] What about the military?

[Frei] Those amendments to the Constitution will have to be made within the framework of a nationwide agreement, and not only through an agreement between the political parties and the government. We are going to negotiate in a responsible manner with the opposition, without taking into account the year 1997, which is when the mandate of the designated senators expires. We want to make these changes, and are seeking a political balance to do so.

[Waack] Aren't you worried about the fact that your predecessor was unable to solve the military issue?

[Frei] We can't say that President Patricio Aylwin did not solve that problem. This is, undoubtedly, a pending issue, but compared to the situation in 1989 the current situation is quite different. The Armed Forces respect the civilian power. The day after I was elected president, several authorities came to congratulate me. Among the representatives of the most varied sectors there were also the military commanders. They thus respect the elected and legally established civilian government, which, in turn, respects the professional role of the Armed Forces.

[Waack] Do you feel comfortable with the idea of having to coexist with a former dictator who still feels himself the judge of national issues?

[Frei] When you are elected president of the Republic you must focus your attention on the real problems that exist. Those real problems are what are important, not one's personal choices. There is a Chilean reality that must be respected. That is what is real. But in my opinion, the president of the Republic must recover his power, as in any part of the world, to appoint the military commanders. This problem does not depend on this or the other person. It is a matter of principles, and I stick to that principle.

[Waack] Do you think that there are still pockets within the security forces that are out of your control, such as in the case of the Brazilian psychologist who was arrested and tortured in a Santiago police station?

[Frei] I do not want to specifically refer to that case, because I did not follow nor am I aware of the legal procedures followed, but it is quite clear that it was a security problem, because she was involved with a terrorist group. A state of law prevails in Chile now. Therefore, if a person is arrested only the courts can decide whether or not that person is guilty of a crime. Neither the government nor the policy, only the courts.

[Waack] Your father governed Chile 30 years ago. Have you ever felt you were his political heir?

[Frei] No, definitely not. I feel very comfortable saying that. I have never in my life planned to become my father's political heir. His political heritage must be understood in the broadest sense of the word. He founded the Christian Democratic Party in Chile and, in that sense, gave us a reference framework of values and ideas which we have always followed. This is the path I am treading now, but I definitely do not feel myself to be his political heir. There are many Chileans who worked with him, belonged to his government, and can legitimately feel themselves to be his political heirs. I obviously carry his name with great pride.

[Waack] Chileans seem to be fond of traditional names, of political dynasties. Doesn't this seem a paradox in a society that many consider politicized?

[Frei] Well, there are many sons of presidents who never engaged in politics nor became president. There are also sons of well-known intellectuals or scientists who took other paths. I undoubtedly benefit from the great popularity my father's government enjoyed, but the people judge me for what I am doing today and not for what my father did 40 years ago. Chileans are interested in the future, and not the past.

[Waack] You started your career as a politician rather late in life. Was it a personal decision, or did circumstances get you involved in politics?

[Frei] As a famous Spanish poet said, men are always subject to circumstances. My decision was a personal decision. I accompanied my father during many years in campaigns, when I was young, but my decision to drop my work and engage in politics was entirely personal, and was made after my father had died.

[Waack] Your election is interpreted as the end of an important generation of politicians, of those who personally experienced the 1973 military coup. Do you feel you are closing an era in Chile?

[Frei] I don't think so. But there is an importance change in generation. Many of the ministers and secretaries who are going to accompany me are but 40 years of age or less. They were at school or in the university in 1973.

[Waack] Will discussions regarding human rights, which have steered politics over the past two decades, also end in Chile?

[Frei] Discussions regarding human rights will never end. Respect for human rights is a basic value of modern societies, and this is why it is a subject that can never be dropped. All cases of human rights violations have been brought before the courts, which is experiencing a crisis and must be reorganized, as the opposition itself admits. But the cases that are still being heard in court are still pending, that is a fact.

Mexican Embargo on Fruit Shipment Termed 'Confusing'

PY2303190194 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza has disclosed that Mexican authorities have gradually begun lifting the embargo on a shipment of Chilean fruit in the port of Manzanillo.

Although there is still no official information from the Mexican Government, Insulza told Radio Cooperativa that yesterday shortly after noon he received reports from Mexico City announcing the partial lifting of the embargo on the shipment.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What news is there about the embargo on the Chilean fruit shipment?

[Insunza] Look, the situation is still rather confusing. According to the information we have, the embargo on the cargo from the first ship that was unloaded has been lifted, with the exception of a few boxes where a dead larva was found, which seems to have caused some problems and prompted the measure. I reiterate that there is no reason for this measure because Mexico has this type of larva, and therefore it poses no threat. The second ship is allegedly being subjected to a new inspection. [end recording]

Insulza explained that the Mexican embargo was ordered on 18 March, and apparently there was some misunderstanding because Chilean authorities were not informed appropriately about the measures.

The acting foreign minister explained that on 3 March, the Mexicans decided to ban the entry of Chilean fruit that could be infested with the fruit fly. The decision was made after the Chilean Government, in compliance with the agreements in force, informed the Mexican Government about the existence of the fruit fly in Santiago. Mexico immediately stepped up restrictions, thus establishing new obstacles for the entry of Chilean fruit.

On 7 March, Mexico decided to circumscribe restrictions for the entry of Chilean fruit, and increased to 8 km the radius around the site where the presence of the fruit fly was detected. In view of this, Jose Miguel Insulza reiterated that the situation is regarded as serious by the Chilean Government, and admitted that despite the good will of Mexican authorities the measure causes material and intangible damages to Chilean producers.

Colombia

Paper Lists Chamber Election Results

PA2403041194 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Mar 94 p 9a

[Text] Official Results of the Chamber of Representatives election.

Liberals Maintain Majority.

In certain regions of the country seats were decided by two to five votes. The ruling party defeated the Conservative Party by about 1.2 million votes nationwide. There was scarce voting for candidates from Indian communities. The participation of Christians increased.

Amazonas

With 100 percent of the voting tables counted:
Juan Jose Silva, Independent Civic Movement, 2,104 votes.
Alvaro Ayala, Liberal Party, 1,351.

Antioquia

With 98 percent of the voting tables counted:
Ramon Elejalde Arbelaez, Liberal, 33,230.
Ernesto Mesa Arango, Liberal, 29,091.
Gabriel Zapata, New Democratic Force [NFD], 28,363.
Benjamin Higuita, Conservative Party, 25,666.
Humberto Tejada, Conservative, 21,867.
Juan Ignacio Castrillo, NFD, 19,588.
William Velez Mesa, Liberal, 18,240.
Luis Norberto Guerra, Conservative, 18,092.
Manuel Ramiro Velasquez, Conservative, 17,284.
Gustavo Lopez Cortes, NFD, 17,280.
Evelio Ramirez, Liberal, 16,399.
Roberto Herrera, Liberal, 16,143.
Luis Fernando Duque, Liberal, 16,050.
Guillermo Gaviria, Liberal, 13,249.
Arlen Uribe Marquez, Liberal, 12,696.
Rodrigo Echeverri, Liberal, 12,387.
Barlahan Henao, Liberal, 11,829.

Arauca

With 82.9 percent of the voting tables counted:
Adalberto Jaimes Ochoa, Liberal, 12,680.
Julio Acosta Bernal, Liberal, 7,434.

Atlantico

With 98 percent of the voting tables counted:
Ines Gomez, People's Will [Voluntad Popular], 38,771.
Mario Varon, Conservative, 36,705.
Tarquino Pacheco, People's Will, 32,910.
Jose Llinas, Liberal, 24,905.
Giovanni Lamboglia, Liberal, 24,561.
Alonso Acosta, Conservative, 23,337.
Yaneth Suarez, AD M-19 [19 April Movement Democratic Alliance], 23,150.

Bolivar

With 90.96 percent of the voting tables counted:
Alvaro Enrique Benedetti Vargas, Liberal, 35,216.
Gonzalo Botero, Liberal, 33,327.
Cesar Augusto Daza, Conservative, 31,978.
Jose Felix Turbay Turbay, Liberal, 28,452.
William Montes Medina, Conservative, 28,115.
Alfonso Lopez Cossio, Liberal, 24,981.

Boyaca

With 98 percent of the voting tables counted:
Jose Raul Rueda, Conservative, 22,252.
Jorge Armando Mendieta, Conservative, 19,404.
Victor M. Buitrago, Conservative, 19,048.
Oscar Celio Jimenez, Liberal, 18,734.
Miguel Antonio Roa, Liberal, 14,179.
Jorge Reina, Liberal, 13,269.

Caldas

With 99.86 percent of the voting tables counted:
Rodrigo Garavito, Liberal, 38,155.
Arturo Yepes Alzate, Conservative, 28,189.
Dilia Estrada de Gomez, Conservative, 26,466.

Octavio Jaramillo, Liberal, 26,092.
Carlos Alberto Parra, Conservative, 18,817.

Caqueta

With 93.52 percent of the voting tables counted:
Rodrigo Turbay Cote, Liberal, 8,955.
Luis Fernando Almario, Conservative, 7,384.

Casanare

With 94.77 percent of the voting tables counted:
Julio Cesar Rodriguez, Liberal, 10,709.
Heli Cala Lopez, Liberal, 8,425.

Cauca

With 90.59 percent of the voting tables counted:
Jose Dario Salazar, Conservative, 22,076.
Juan Jose Chaux, Liberal, 19,899.
Jose Maya Garcia, Independent, 13,370.
Jesus Ignacio Garcia, Liberal, 12,970.

Cesar

With 93.78 percent of the voting tables counted:
Lazaro Calderon, Liberal, 21,553.
Alvaro Araujo Castro, Liberal, 17,665.
Antonio Tapias Delgado, Liberal, 15,510.
Alfredo Cuello, Conservative, 15,064.

Cordoba

With 95.39 percent of the voting tables counted:
Fredy Sanchez, Liberal, 34,267.
Miguel Alfonso de la Espriella, Liberal, 28,668.
Jairo de Jesus Ganem, Liberal, 25,865.
Jaime Arturo Pineda Cabrales, Conservative, 24,877.
Heyne Sorge Mogollon, Liberal, 24,754.

Cundinamarca

With 99.09 percent of the voting tables counted:
Martha Catalina Daniels, Liberal, 20,808.
Jose Gregorio Alvarado, Liberal, 17,187.
Fernando Ramirez, Liberal, 16,848.
Roberto Moya, Liberal, 14,124.
Carlina Rodriguez, Conservative, 13,716.
Jorge Gongora, Conservative, 13,566.

Samuel Ortegon, New Colombia [Nueva Colombia], 10,395.

Choco

With 59.87 percent of the voting tables counted:
Edgar Eulises Torres, Liberal, 7,444.
Wladimiro Garces Machado, Liberal, 5,534.

Guainia

With 100 percent of the voting tables counted:
Graciela Ortiz, Conservative, 1,099.
Guillermo Enrique Brito, Liberal, 728.

Guaviare

With 100 percent of the voting tables counted:
Oscar Lopez Cadavid, Conservative, 2,673.
Tomas Devia, Liberal, 1,919.

Huila

With 99.7 percent of the voting tables counted:
Jesus Antonio Garcia, Conservative, 23,393.
Orlando Beltran Cuellar, Liberal, 21,216.
Julio Bahamon, Liberal, 19,454.
Jesus Antonio Vargas Valencia, Conservative, 14,925.

La Guajira
With 95 percent of the voting tables counted:
Antenor Duran Carrillo, Liberal, 19,435.
Nelson Rodolfo Amaya, Conservative, 14,826.

Magdalena

With 89.3 percent of the voting tables counted:
Mikael Segundo Cotes, Conservative, 30,094.
Joaquin Jose Vives, Liberal, 28,503.
Salomon de J. Saade, Liberal, 19,844.
Jose Domingo Davila, Liberal, 19,670.
Dario Saravia Gomez, Liberal, 17,063.

Meta

With 97.96 percent of the voting tables counted:
Jorge Carmelo Perez, Liberal, 12,901.
Gerardo Macera Cespedes, Conservative, 10,760.
Betty Camacho, Liberal, 8,507.

Narino

With 78.73 percent of the voting tables counted:
Carlos Eduardo Enriquez, Conservative, 24,848.
Osvaldo Dario Martinez, Liberal, 19,406.
Franco Salazar Bucheli, Conservative, 18,675.
Jose Laureano Ceron, Liberal, 16,899.
Javier Tato Alvarez, Liberal, 16,457.

Norte de Santander

With 93.01 percent of the voting tables counted:
Basilio Villamizar, Liberal, 17,611.
Vicente Serrano Silva, Conservative, 17,478.
Augusto Benitez Maldonado, Liberal, 17,439.
Isabel Celis, Conservative, 16,896.
Albino Garcia Fernandez, Conservative, 15,865.

Putumayo

With 96.01 percent of the voting tables counted:
Julio Mora Acosta, Conservative, 11.016.
Jose Maya Burbano, Liberal, 6,470.

Quindio

With 99.9 percent of the voting tables counted:
Carlos Albero Oviedo, Conservative, 17,233.
Emma Pelaez Fernandez, Liberal, 16,632.
Luis Emilio Valencia, Liberal, 13,494.

Risaralda

With 99.69 percent of the voting tables counted:
Rodrigo Rivera Salazar, Liberal, 34,254.
Maria Isabel Mejia, Liberal, 13,968.
German Martinez Mejia, Liberal, 11,397.
Octavio Carmona, Liberal, 10,802.

San Andres

With 100 percent of the voting tables counted:
Julio Gallardo Archbold, Integration [Integracion, not further identified], 4,196.
Ana Garcia Pechthalt, Liberal, 3,951.

Santander

With 97.92 percent of the voting tables counted:
Jose Aristides Andrade, Liberal, 27,518.
Tiberio Villarreal, Liberal, 23,337.
Rafael Serrano Prada, Conservative, 21,397.
Jorge Humberto Mantilla, S. Conservative [not further identified], 20,667.
Carlos Ardila Ballesteros, Liberal, 18,910.
Jesus Carrizosa, Conservative, 15,362.
Jorge Gomez Celis, Liberal, 15,344.

Sucre

With 97.89 percent of the voting tables counted:
Jorge Eliecer Anaya, Liberal, 31,514.
Roberto Perez, Liberal, 26,550.
Emiro Serro Arrieta, Conservative, 25,751.

Tolima

With 97.7 percent of the voting tables counted:
Hector Dechner, Conservative, 14,653.
Emilio Martinez Rosales, Liberal, 14,032.
German Huertas Combariza, Liberal, 13,025.
Augusto Vidal Perdomo, Liberal, 12,255.
Justo Guzman Olaya, Conservative, 12,006.
Alfonso Uribe Badillo, Liberal, 11,306.

Valle

With 91.53 percent of the voting tables counted:
Fernando Tello, Liberal, 40,934.
Ramiro Varela, Conservative, 28,989.

Rafael Quintero, Independent, 23,785.
Wilki Jairo Chavarriaga, Liberal, 22,284.
Jose Arlen Carvajal, Independent, 21,219.
Camilo Montenegro, Liberal, 20,401.
Carlos Barragan, Independent, 19,339.
Santiago Castro, Conservative, 19,335.
Yolima Espinosa, Liberal, 18,965.
Gustavo Catano Morales, Conservative, 18,806.
Jairo Homero Giraldo, Liberal, 18,378.
Jorge Duque, Conservative, 17,337.
Eduardo Victoria Wilches, Conservative, 16,306.

Vaupes

With 100 percent of the voting tables counted:
Harold Leon Bentley, Independent, 1,601.
Jaime Gracia Vargas, Liberal, 1,130.

Vichada

With 94 percent of the voting tables counted:
Jaime Antonio Gonzalez, Liberal, 1,692.
Franklin Segundo Garcia, AD M-19, 1,691.

Black Communities [CN]

With 90 percent of the voting tables counted:
Zulia Maria Mena, CN, 37,156.
Agustin Valencia Mosquera, CN, 13,069.

Santa Fe de Bogota

With 99.89 percent of the voting tables counted:
Carlos Alonso Lucio, Independent, 24,717.
Roberto Camacho, MSN [National Salvation Movement], 20,752.
Fernando Tamayo Tamayo, Conservative, 20,081.
Maria Paulina Espinosa, Conservative, 15,961.
Juan Jose Medina, Conservative, 15,732.
Ingrid Betancur, Liberal, 15,321.
Colin Crawford, Christian, 14,778.
Alegria Fonseca, Liberal, 12,014.
Rafael Guzman, Liberal, 11,857.
Jaime Casabianca, Conservative, 11,650.
Vivianne Morales, Independent, 11,384.
Melquiades Carrizosa, Conservative, 10,893.
Antonio Jose Pinillos, Liberal, 10,652.
Marta Luna, Liberal, 10,573.
Guillermo Martinez, Metapolitical Unitary Movement, 9,862.
Nubia Rosa Brand, Metapolitical Unitary Movement, 9,449.
Antonio Alvarez Lleras, Liberal, 9,274.
Mario Rincon Perez, Mov. Fuerza Prog. [not further identified], 8,940.

Notes Gains, Losses

PA2403030594 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO 20 Mar 94 p 8a

["The Key Facts of the Elections"—EL TIEMPO headline]

[Text] After analyzing the results of the 13 March elections, the following data appears to be most relevant:

Absenteeism prevailed. On this occasion it reached the alarming figure of 70 percent.

There was a strong surge of independent movements, especially the Christians, thanks to a lack of unity and discipline among the traditional parties.

The 19 April Movement-Democratic Alliance [AD M-19], which was the "star" [vedette] of the 1991 elections, was the big loser, because it was left with no seats in Congress.

These are some of the most interesting aspects of the parliamentary elections after analyzing all the data.

EL TIEMPO presents a summary of the most interesting points of the 13 March elections. The parliamentary map could suffer slight changes next week as soon as the general vote count concludes.

Apathy

The country had not registered such abstention levels in the past 15 years.

Little more than 5 million out of 17 million Colombians qualified to vote actually voted.

The negligent attitude shown by the voters contributed, to a great extent, to the generalized debacle of dozens of candidates, many of whom have ample experience.

Paired with this trend, "political bosses" lost weight and electoral density.

Galanism suffered a collapse. Its Senate representation is limited to the seat of Narino leader Parmenio Cuellar.

Veteran leaders of this political force, such as Rafael Amador, Maria Cristina Ocampo, Mauricio Guzman, and Arturo Sarabia Better, were left out.

Liberalism also lost important figures in Congress such as Orlando Vasquez Velasquez and failed to have elected new and outstanding persons such as Juan Lozano, former private secretary of Luis Carlos Galan.

One of the highest abstention rates was registered in Santa Fe de Bogota—75 percent. The capital city district elected representatives with only 8,000 votes.

Strength of the Minorities

In contrast to the collapse of the AD M-19, which until prior to the elections was defined as the first great minority, the Christian movement registered a surprising rise.

The Christian Movement, C-4 [expansion unknown], Lay Movement for Colombia, and National Christian Party secured three senators with heavy voting. They are currently disputing a fourth seat. It will all depend on the

result of the recount of votes garnered by Ponco Renteria and Claudia Rodriguez de Castellano.

We must stress that women have progressively won greater participation in the Legislative Branch. They won the seats for six senators and 18 representatives. They only had one senator in the dissolved 1990 Congress.

Santa Fe de Bogota registered the highest female representation. Six women were elected to the 18 seats at the Chamber of Representatives.

It is also interesting to note what happened at the coffee-producing axis [eje cafetero], Caldas, Quindio, and Risaralda, where three women were elected to the 11 seats at the Chamber of Representatives.

In contrast, Antioquia Department elected no woman.

Classic Majorities

The Liberal Party consolidated its majority at the Senate and garnered 1,731,753 votes. The Conservative Party, including all its currents, garnered 759,057 votes.

Liberalism expanded its representation at the Senate. It won 57 seats in 1991 and 59 in this election.

Theoretically speaking, Conservatism increased from 22 to 31 senators. This figure includes those elected from the New Democratic Force, which also has leaders of Liberal origin and the National Salvation Movement.

Leftist Downfall

Other movements that originated from the peace agreements, along with the AD M-19, which certain analysts define as the center left, were among the casualties.

The Patriotic Union (UP) and Hope, Peace, and Liberty (EPL) lost representation in the Chamber of Representatives. For example, they lost all representatives in Antioquia Department. The same was true in Arauca.

Nevertheless, the Communist Party managed to have Manuel Cepeda Vargas elected senator with heavy voting.

The MOIR [Independent Workers Revolutionary Movement] also managed to have Jorge Santos elected to the higher chamber.

Further on Election Outcome

PA2403055694 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Mar 94 p 9a

[Report by Francisco Celis Alban]

[Text] If Sunday's election results continue along their current trend, as per the last bulletin from the National Registrar, out of 163 seats, the Liberal Party won 89 seats in the Chamber of Representatives (91 percent of the voting tables have been counted), while the Conservative Party won 50.

The remaining seats, a mere 12 percent [number as published], are being distributed in quotas of little importance among the New Democratic Force, the National Salvation Movement, the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19], People's Will [Voluntad Popular] (Barranquilla), the Christian, metapolitical, civic, and independent groups.

Among the election's large vote-grabbers in Valle is incumbent Representative Fernando Tello Dorrons, who soared with 40,934 votes. The closest contender obtained 28,989 votes.

In Barranquilla, Ines Gomez de Vargas, from the People's Will, to which Mayor Bernardo Hoyos belongs, came in first over the others with 38,771 votes. Conservative Mario Varon Olarte, came in second, and Tarquino Pacheco who belongs to Hoyo's movement, came in third.

In Caldas, Liberal Rodrigo Garavito was reelected with a notable 38,155 votes.

In Antioquia, liberals garnered 179,314 votes and the conservatives 148,140. This means that the liberals maintained the 10 seats they already had while the conservatives increased from six to seven seats.

In Santa Fe de Bogota, a big surprise was the significant climb of Carlos Alonso Lucio, who had abandoned the AD/M-19 long before the elections. Because of this, not only was he was saved from the across the board "burnout" of this movements' candidates, but he also led with the largest number of votes: 24,717. Lucio believes this support is the result of this opposition activity that characterized his political actions.

Another surprise was Maria Zulia Mena Garcia, one of the leaders of the totally unknown—nationwide—Organization of the People's Neighborhoods of the Pacific Coast [Organization de Barrios Populares de la Costa Pacifica, Obapo]. This is a candidate who has worked exclusively inside the black communities. She won 37,156 votes, although she had never participated in elections and her campaign was waged with minimum economic resources. It is well to note that this is the first time that the blacks in Colombia participated in elections through a special district for ethnic minorities.

The AD/M-19 electoral retreat had only two exceptions. Janeth Suarez was elected to the Chamber of Representatives in Barranquilla and Franklin Segundo Garcia was elected in Vichada. They are this group's only parliamentary representatives.

The Liberals were the strongest force in Cundinamarca where Martha Catalina Daniels, Jose Gregocio Alvarado, Fernando Ramirez, and Roberto Moya were elected.

Representatives to the Chamber elected with the lowest number of votes were in the newest departments, mainly Amazonas, Guaviare, Guainia, Vichada, and Vaupes. In Vichada there was a spectacular finish. Liberal Jaime

Gonzalez garnered 1,692 votes to defeat the AD/M-19 candidate, who garnered 1,691.

Officials Deny Reports on Suspension of U.S. Cooperation

PA2303211194 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Mar 94 p 9a

[Text] The Colombian Embassy in Washington and the Justice Ministry stated yesterday that they had no knowledge of the alleged decision by the U.S. State Department to suspend judicial cooperation and evidence exchange with Colombia until the scope of the Procedure Code is explained.

Gabriel Silva, Colombian ambassador in Washington, was puzzled by dispatches to that effect datelined in Washington by the news agencies AFP and AP, which attributed the information to the State Department. Silva indicated that no communication in that regard has taken place and added that, to the contrary, work is being conducted to agree on criteria on the matter of cooperation, "because whenever difficulties have arisen the aid has not been suspended." Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez said that "the government has no information to that effect neither in Bogota nor in Washington."

Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta and Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff made similar comments. After several consultations with officials in Colombia and the United States, they dismissed the reports. The attorney general said that important meetings are being held with U.S. officials to resolve the problems that may have arisen regarding the policy of surrendering to justice.

"There are differing views and interpretations regarding the policy of surrendering to justice and reducing sentences, but the U.S. Government has not formally made a decision," Silva said. According to Ambassador Silva, Colombian and U.S. officials have been discussing for some time judicial cooperation and how to resolve a series of obstacles that have arisen. "Cooperation is a two-way street," Silva noted, "and to cooperate we must be in agreement, and that is what where we stand." Justice Minister Gonzalez said the government has not received any kind of official communication on the alleged suspension of judicial exchange with the United States. "Although we have had differences, it has not led to a break in cooperation, and, quite the opposite, we hope to foster a climate to reinforce that cooperation because it is indispensable to combating drug trafficking for the sake of Colombia and mankind," Gonzalez added.

The differences between U.S. authorities and the Office of the Prosecutor General revolve around what the United States views as confusing guidelines within the Penal Procedure Code on the matter of sentence reductions. On this matter, the justice minister flatly denied that said code contains any benefit or automatic reduction of sentences to criminials who surrender or provide information to the Justice Ministry but rather gives the Office of the Prosecutor General discretionary power to grant some benefits provided the cooperation with justice is effective. "Surrendering alone does not entail a sentence reduction since effective cooperation with justice is indispensable," Gonzalez explained. This official, along with the Office of the Deputy Prosecutor General, promoted the code reform in Congress.

Arrieta on Reported U.S. Proposal for De Greiff Resignation

PA2303143494 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Colombian Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta by Dario Arizmendi—live or recorded]

[Text] [Arizmendi] Will you fly to the United States (?in the next few hours) as was reported in a television newscast last night?

[Arrieta] [Words indistinct] there would not be any doubt. For the time being, however, I have no plans to travel.

[Arizmendi] What does the Attorney General's Office know about the reported plans of three U.S. senators to present in the Senate a proposal requesting the removal or resignation of Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff?

[Arrieta] I have no information. To tell you the truth, I do not think the U.S. Congress will embark on such a venture.

[Arizmendi] Excuse me, Mr. Attorney General, can you expand on that?

[Arrieta] I have no information on any Congress statement to that effect. I repeat: I do not think the U.S. Congress will embark on such a venture. Anyway, the Congress would be wrong to request the resignation of an independent official appointed by another administration and whose term in office is fixed. There has been some disagreement between the Colombian Government and U.S. authorities over [words indistinct]. Senator Kerry has made some remarks in the Senate, but I do not think the point has been or will be reached where the resignation of a Colombian official is requested. That's ridiculous.

[Arizmendi] Has the Colombian Justice Ministry, President Cesar Gaviria, or the Prosecutor General asked you to travel to the United States to discuss this subject so you can present your arguments regarding the independence of government branches in our country?

[Arrieta] I have been in permanent communication with the prosecutor general and President Gaviria on this subject. We have been making every effort and using every reasonable mechanism to solve this impasse. I have a feeling that we are beginning to make some headway. Should it be necessary to travel, I will do so

gladly. I have discussed this possibility with De Greiff, the U.S. ambassador, and President Gaviria. The idea would be for me to act as a spokesman to explain certain aspects of the administration of justice inherent to the obedience to authorities and the division of government branches. We would try to clarify certain past misunderstandings about this subject.

[Arizmendi] Was any aspect of the subject clarified during your conversation with the U.S. ambassador in Santa Fe de Bogota?

[Arrieta] That is what we have been trying to do. We want to make a decision. Some progress has been made and some solutions found. I hope we will be able to make progress and establish some type of harmonious and cordial working relationship after some time. I cannot guarantee that it will happen, but that is what we are trying to do.

[Arizmendi] Has De Greiff been affected by this public controversy and the opposition in the United States to his position?

[Arrieta] [Words indistinct] the situation is regrettable. As the result of what I have been discussing with De Greiff, the most important aspect of all this process—which I would like to leave behind, Dario—is that we are beginning to reach points of agreement that will make it possible for us to progress. As I have said for some time, Dario, this is too complex a problem for Colombia. A confrontation that is simultaneously local, interinstitutional, and international with the United States would be (?undesirable). I think all involved parties agree on the need to keep making progress. My talks with the executive and the prosecutor general have made me optimistic that we will gradually iron out our differences and advance in this process.

[Arizmendi] Ten days have already elapsed since you said you would again carefully study the request to transfer five inmates from Modelo prison to the national prison in Itagui. Do you have a reply from the prosecutor general on this subject? Will he persist in his position?

[Arrieta] I have not heard about his official position on the subject. I do know that he has requested some additional information from the government, which gave him a thorough explanation of the government's reservations regarding this transfer. I suppose De Greiff is studying the explanation. So far, however, there has been no further insistence on this transfer.

[Arizmendi] We have read in the Atlantic coast newspapers and seen in television newscasts pictures of Barranquila Mayor Bernardo Hoyos, a former priest, participating in public demonstrations with Antonio Navarro Wolff and other 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19] leaders. Mayor Hoyos even made speeches supporting the AD/M-19 candidate's aspirations. Will the Attorney General's Office investigate this open participation in politics?

[Arrieta] The situation is complex. Of course, we will open an inquiry. Participation in politics by a government official is punishable by Colombian law. As for the results of this inquiry, we will see. We will have to study the incidents you mentioned. Anyway, it is the Attorney General's Office's duty to open an inquiry. I am sure such an inquiry has already been undertaken by the departmental prosecutor's office for the Atlantic coast, because that is the office with the authority to investigate Mayor Hoyos.

Government Minister on Surrender Policy Controversy

PA2303192594 Santa Fe de Bogota Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Mar 94

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] The surrenders and their negotiations have prompted a controversy over the attorney general's actions. These surrenders have made the North Americans furious, and the problem is going from bad to worse.

A top-level meeting to discuss the problem was held at the Presidential Palace this morning. At the end of the meeting, one of the participants, the government minister, played down the importance of the controversy.

[Begin recording] [Government Minister Fabio Villegas] It was a working meeting, just like the others we have been holding in recent weeks, to coordinate among the Executive Branch, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Attorney General's Office the implementation of the surrender policy to benefit justice in the country and to use it as a tool to end impunity.

[Reporter] I imagine that the prosecutor general versus the U.S. Congress topic was discussed at the meeting.

[Villegas] We discussed, among other topics, the international effects of disagreements over the surrender policy. I hope that the drug-consuming nations in general and the international community will continue and even step up the efforts made so far to support Colombia's struggle against drug trafficking. [end recording]

Presidential Election Postponed Until 29 May

PA2403005494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Attention: The Constitutional Court changed part of the Electoral Law this evening, 23 March. This organization changed the date for the presidential and vice presidential election from 8 May to 29 May. Should there be a runoff election—that is, between the two candidates who garner the most votes—the definitive election of President Cesar Gaviria's successor will be on 19 June. Other articles of the Electoral Law were also changed.

Valle Cartel 'Key Man' Surrenders to Authorities

PA2303194894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Mar 94

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] [Anchorwoman Yolanda Ruiz] Another key man in the cartel of northern Valle del Cauca has just surrendered. He is Joyner Ospina Montoya, charged with drug trafficking and money laundering. In the negotiations prior to his surrender, his lawyers reportedly reached an agreement on a sentence that could mean he would only serve two years in jail. The "National" newscast was the only medium to witness the surrender.

[Reporter Sandra Vergara] Joyner Ospina Montoya appeared before the Regional Office of the Prosecutor General in Cali at 1030 this morning. Ospina, his wife, and Cesar Guzman, his lawyer, rode in these vehicles from the Plaza de Toros neighborhood, south of Cali, to the Regional Office of the Prosecutor General.

[Begin Guzman recording] This voluntary act is a show of confidence and faith in Colombian justice and the policy of surrendering. It is a sign of efficient cooperation with justice.

[Unidentified reporter] Why did he surrender? To what crimes will he confess?

[Guzman] Mr. Ospina today will confess to violating Law 30, the crime of drug trafficking, and money laundering. He will not confess to any other crime. [end recording]

[Vergara] These crimes could land him in jail for 30 years, but thanks to the benefits offered by the law, his sentence would be reduced to four years, not counting study and work while in prison, which would cut his sentence another two years. As the "National" newscast learned, he will disclose the names of other members of the organization and reveal the routes used for drug trafficking and money laundering. Joyner Ospina Montoya will be interrogated in a few hours, and later he will be taken to Palmira Prison. He will be held in the same wing where drug trafficker Julio Fabio Urdinola is jailed.

[Ruiz] According to the authorities, Joyner Ospina Montoya was also the man in charge of transporting the organization's drugs. Let us see who he is.

[Vergara] Joyner Ospina Montoya, 28 years old, married, and father of two children was born in Dovia north of Valle. He is another member of the northern drug-trafficking ring once headed by Juan Urdinola Grajales. He got involved in drug trafficking in 1988 in the United States. In 1990 he came to Colombia and became the right-hand man of Julio Fabio Urdinola, another member of this organization who surrendered to justice 15 days ago.

Ospina Montoya was in charge of shipping and distributing cocaine to the United States. He was also in charge of laundering money from the United States to Colombia. To date, we have no information of any legal process Colombian justice may have against him. We have learned, however, that he is facing charges for drug trafficking in U.S. courts. U.S. authorities tapped the telephones Ospina Montoya used to make all his contacts. In addition, informers confirmed his participation in drug trafficking and money laundering.

Paraguay

New Concurrent Russian Envoy Indicates Trade Interests

PY2303185594 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Mar 94 p 15

[Text] Future concurrent Russian Ambassador to Paraguay Yan Burlyay stated on 22 March that Russia is interested in purchasing Paraguayan cotton. Burlyay arrived in our country during the afternoon of 22 March, and will present his credentials at a ceremony to be held 24 March at Government House. The ambassador will also officially submit to the government a list of products that Russia wishes to offer Paraguay.

Regarding cotton, he indicated that the textile could produce interesting results in his country, especially for Russia's foreign trade enterprises that work with large quantities.

Burlyay also indicated that Russia wants to cooperate with our country in the implementation of a trolley bus transportation system, and in the oil area.

He also highlighted the fact that he had brought a list of Russian products with him that could be offered on the Paraguayan market, such as metallurgical equipment, machinery, tools, presses, electric motors, industrial electrical equipment, generators, freight elevators, highway construction equipment (road levelers, bulldozers up to 50 hp), tractors, agricultural machinery, automobiles, airplanes, airport equipment, sport airplanes, watches and clocks, photographic equipment, ammonia sulphate, and potassium chloride, among others.

Regarding the operation for the exchange of goods, he stated that Russia is offering fertilizer in exchange for our country's agricultural and livestock products.

Upon presenting his credentials to the government, Burlyay will be the first concurrent ambassador to Paraguay with his seat in Buenos Aires (Argentina). Our fellow countryman Igor Fleisher has been honorary Russian consul since 1993.

"I am sure that thanks to the formalization of our relations, cooperation between the two countries will be given an additional push to the benefit of the peoples of the two countries," the diplomat said.

He indicated that his naming as concurrent ambassador to Paraguay will be the first step toward installing a resident ambassador in our country, as is the case with Germany, France, or Great Britain, just to cite a few European countries.

The new ambassadors from Thailand, India, and Iran, who arrived in our country on 22 March, will also present their credentials together with the concurrent Russian ambassador.

President Wasmosy Gives Full Support to Press Freedom

PY2303190394 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Mar 94 p 23

[Text] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy yesterday announced that he is willing to sign the Chapultepec (Mexico) declaration on freedom of the press that was signed by representatives of the continent's free press. The president visited this newspaper and affirmed that no means of communication will be closed nor censure imposed during his government.

Wasmosy visited ABC COLOR at 0745. At that time, company employees were commemorating the 10th anniversary of the closing of the newspaper and the 5th anniversary of the day it was reopened.

The president brought his greetings to our newspaper and said: "In the consolidation of democracy, I think that freedom and democracy are closely linked. Therefore, without your needing to ask me about it, I can assure you that I have broad shoulders and consider criticism positive, even though I sometimes think it unfair. The best way to consolidate democracy is to respect total freedom of the press."

Referring to press freedoms in our country, the president said: "Time and the readers will have the final word in choosing which is the most credible source. This is like passing through a fine sieve, because the truth moves slowly, but it prevails in the end. I thank you for your constructive criticism. That is the best way to cooperate with the government."

The president said: "In a democracy, responsibility does not lie on a single person's shoulders; in a democracy everyone is responsible. We must agree on the kind of Paraguay we want, and work for it. We must avoid doing things that are not very clear and which perhaps seek transitory victories, or revenge, or somehow distort what we really want for our country."

"Newspapers must help the public form an opinion. We must be conscious that our rights end where other people's rights begin. I think there is no better way to solve our problems than through dialogue and consensus," the president said.

In metaphorical language the president then added: "I will take advantage of this opportunity to say that democracy is like the decreasing water level of a lake. At first you do not see what is below. For instance, we cannot see what is lying on the bottom of Ypacarai Lake. We might find stones or mud. As soon as the water level starts dropping the problems that were always there and accumulated through time start coming to light. Today, thanks to the fact that people can talk, we can launch full investigations into all those problems."

In an forceful voice, the president then said: "Therefore, and without needing to ask me about it, you may rest assured that the press will not be censured, and no newspaper will be closed during my administration. You are witnesses that today no radio or television station is harassed, and I believe no journalist is being persecuted."

"When someone asked me for help and protection for a journalist in Pedro Juan Caballero I ordered that protection. We gave him all the guarantees. So you can rest assured. I have come here to give you this message so that you may rest assured. During my government no freedom will be curtailed," the president concluded. It was a short but very important speech.

Asked about his attitude with respect to the Chapultepec declaration, which was signed by some heads of government such as Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Guatemalan President Carlos de Leon Carpio, Wasmosy said that he would sign it with pleasure, because he considers freedom of the press to be essential for democracy. Without it you cannot govern, Wasmosy said.

Peru

Reactions to Announced U.S. Economic Aid Reviewed

PY2303212594

[Editorial Report] Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish carries on page A2 of its 11 March issue a 300-word unattributed report covering reactions to the economic aid the U.S. Government will reportedly grant to Peru in fiscal year 1995.

The report quotes New Majority-Change 90 lawmaker Ricardo Marcenaro Frers as saying: "Peru will receive the largest amount in Latin America, and this shows that the United States recognizes the Peruvian Government's efforts to move forward and reverse, in only three years, the crisis we were experiencing."

The report then quotes PPC, Popular Christian Party, lawmaker Mario Ocharan as saying that the U.S. decision was made because Peru "is putting its economy in order."

Finally, PPC lawmaker Alexander Kouri says the U.S. decision is very positive for Peru because the country received the largest amount in all of Latin America.

In its 12 March issue, the same newspaper carries on page A6 a 500-word editorial entitled "Support for the Peruvian Government and People" on the same subject.

After reporting the aid announced for Peru by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, Alexander Watson, the editorial says: "If we go by Watson's statement, this is not only an economic benefit that will certainly be decisive in the antinarcotics effort and the fight against poverty, but also a clear expression of political support for the Peruvian people and government. The visit to Peru by the commission headed by Alexander Watson himself has served to make the real Peruvian situation known to the higher U.S. decision-making levels."

After elaborating on the results of the U.S. mission's visit, the editorial concludes: "Therefore, we welcome the scheduled aid, but above all, we welcome the example of democracy and effort by the Peruvian people, the majority of whom support their government."

Venezuela

Deputies Support Executive Special Powers Law

PA2303153694 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 22 Mar 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] The legislative wings in Congress support the Democratic Action [AD] proposal for the discussion of a special powers law that will allow the national Executive Branch to issue decrees on tax laws that are before the Legislative Branch.

With the exception of the Radical Cause Party and National Convergence, which are studying the AD proposal, the various legislative wings feel the special powers law will help us gain time in coping with the economic crisis, so long as the scope of the special powers law covers all solutions.

[Begin recording] [Movement Toward Socialism Deputy Gustavo Marquez] We believe that given the country's emergency situation as a result of the crisis in public finances and the treasury, it is fully justified to grant these powers to President Caldera so he will urgently issue the tax laws—with which we are all familiar inasmuch as those drafts were presented to Congress—so it will be possible to significantly reduce the fiscal deficit.

[Social Action Party Deputy Nelson Chitty La Roche] That is the only reason AD and the rest of the country should be interested in expediting that process. In other words, we need to gain time. But I do not know if we have gained much time with the banking law, the stamp tax, and the judicial tariffs law, all of which were issued through the special powers granted to former President Velasquez. All of those measures are now being studied and will probably be modified and revised. Consequently, there are various issues that we must think about and decide upon. First we must consider the urgency of the legislation, something we do not deny. On the other hand, Congress can provide the best treatment a law needs. The Executive Branch is not meant to legislate in general but to implement laws.

[AD Deputy Pedro Tabata Guzman] The government has introduced a package of tax or fiscal measures known as the Sosa Plan. We must carefully study the many laws included in the plan, which could take no less than 60 or 90 days. Therefore, given the thorough analysis that this law package requires and the urgent requirement the government has for a legal instrument—a very responsible instrument—and after having spoken with all political forces, we submit for the consideration of the Chamber a special powers law that will allow the government to act rapidly and find a solution to the huge problems that all Venezuelans face. [end recording]

The various representatives of the parliamentarian wings said they were surprised at AD's proposal of a draft special powers law.

Finance Minister Comments

PA2303153794 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Report by Ligia Moreno]

[Text] During a meeting with members of the Venezuelan Institute of Financial Executives, Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez said that he must meet with President Rafael Caldera to discuss Democratic Action's proposal to grant special powers to the president. Caracas Stock Exchange President Noris Aguirre and Finance Vice Minister (Luis Javier Grisanti) also participated in the meeting.

Minister Sosa indicated that in his opinion, a special powers bill would only serve to expedite measures he has already proposed. He emphasized that Venezuela has gone from an exchange rate of 4.30 bolivares per U.S. dollar to 115 bolivares per U.S. dollar without knowing for certain the reasons behind such a currency devaluation, which is most probably related to the fiscal deficit. He also pointed out that the government is very concerned about this situation and believes that there cannot be any in-depth changes to the Sosa Plan. Nevertheless, the possibility of a special powers law has not been rejected.

[Begin Sosa recording] I do not think modifications can be made and then a special powers law promulgated, because what they would really be doing is evaluating the same laws that allow them to promulgate such a law. If it is a special powers law, they are really passing the responsibility to the Executive Branch. [end recording]

Minister Sosa Rodriguez also emphasized that his visit to the United States had been positive because he felt

that investors were receptive to Venezuela's proposals. He also stated that he did not understand a report in THE ECONOMIST [previous two words in English] that states the VAT should have been applied only at the retail level since implementing such a proposal is very difficult. In addition, in reference to gasoline, what the government can earn in revenue is merely 20 to 50 billion bolivares, which is insufficient to solve the country's problems.

Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez concluded by insisting that right now the most important thing is to pull Venezuela out of the economic and fiscal crisis it is currently facing.

Central Information Office Head Comments

PA2303155394 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 22 Mar 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Central Information Office Minister [title as heard] Guillermo Alvarez Bajares said the Democratic Action [AD] proposal for a special powers law is interesting. He added, however, that it remains to be seen what methods will be used to reach a consensus in the legislature to approve the proposal.

Alvarez Bajares believes the measure would expedite the implementation of certain laws that must be applied quickly if they are to accomplish the intended objectives.

[Begin Alvarez Bajares recording] The AD proposal refers to the truly difficult situation the country is experiencing. We want to interpret this proposal with the utmost good faith in the sense that it can contribute to the expediency of decisionmaking and therefore speed up the process to solve the country's crisis. [end recording]

Alvarez Bajares noted that although the AD proposal is interesting, the government had at no time considered making such a proposal itself.

Interior Minister Views Scope

PA2403030194 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0016 GMT 24 Mar 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Many members of the Executive Branch have said that the possibility of the Congress granting the president special powers by way of a law is interesting. Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom said the government should wait for the proposal to mature and be presented before making any official announcement. He said, however, that the government will not shy away from any responsibility handed down by the Legislative Branch. He stressed that the country's problems are not exclusively economic or financial.

[Begin recording] [Escovar] We would first have to see what exactly the scope of these powers will be. It would make more sense for these powers to allow the Executive Branch to deal with all aspects of the crisis, and to attack them with the swiftness and timeliness the nation demands. [end recording]

Ramon Escovar Salom pointed out that the proposal came from the Congress and not from Executive Branch. Nevertheless, he said the government cannot refuse to study the idea.

Suriname

Threatening Rebel Gunmen Release Hostages

AU2403100394 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] The Hague, 24 March (AFP)—Suriname rebels threatening to blow up a hydroelectric dam freed all their hostages unharmed overnight, the Dutch news agency ANP reported.

The announcement came after the rebels freed four of their 30 hostages Wednesday. About 100 gunmen from a previously unknown Suriname Liberation Front stormed the dam site at Afaboka on Monday, demanding that President Ronald Venetiaan and his government resign and hand over to the national assembly.